SCEDIT Meeting Minutes 2025-09-19

The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Davidson at 3 p.m. on September 19, 2025.

New Business

- Welcoming new committee members, who introduced themselves.
- The conversation ended with introductions of guest speakers from the Academic Judiciary Office and the AJ Committee.
- The Academic Integrity Office discussed the increasing challenges with AI cases, noting that out of 30 cases this summer, 28 were AI-related. They highlighted that faculty are struggling with reporting these cases and often rely too heavily on detection tools without providing additional supporting documentation. They emphasized the need for better education on using alternative evaluation methods beyond detection tools and suggested updating the reporting template to include more detailed instructions for submitting complete reports to the Academic Integrity office.
- They discussed challenges with faculty reporting academic dishonesty and AI usage, noting a lack of assessment tools to determine if faculty are adequately using the current system at Stony Brook. They proposed that Academic Judiciary should educate faculty by meeting with different departments to understand their unique issues and challenges with dishonesty and AI. They shared specific measures one department has implemented, including in-person exams and requiring students to keep time-stamped document drafts.
- Discussions on the use of Respondus software and AI tools in academic settings. A member inquired about tracking instructor engagement with Respondus videos, suggesting this could serve as a proxy for usage. A response was the need to balance addressing plagiarism with protecting student rights, particularly regarding AI usage. A member mentioned ongoing discussions at the SUNY Senate level about AI tools and student rights, and invited colleagues to join the SCEDIT AI subcommittee. It was emphasized the importance of teaching responsible AI usage and avoiding hypocrisy in faculty-student interactions. A member noted a similar increase in AI tool utilization at the School of Medicine.
- Next, SCEDIT discussed the current approaches to AI usage in academic settings, with a member sharing how their school relies on traditional proctoring methods while engaging students in discussions about AI's appropriate use.

Another member described student seminars and faculty initiatives aimed at helping students understand and navigate AI tools, noting that many students express fear about AI usage. Data on Respondus Monitor usage was provided, explaining that while over 200 classes used the recording tool last year, she receives only about 15 video review requests per semester. Recently, a change was implemented to remove student identifying information from emails. An Academic Judiciary committee member shared challenges with using Respondus, citing time-consuming video review processes and difficulties in obtaining clear evidence of cheating, which led to their decision to discontinue its use.

- The group discussed the reliability and effectiveness of Turnitin's AI detection tool, sharing an experience that the tool performed poorly in testing and was essentially a random number generator. The team agreed that while Turnitin could potentially be used as one piece of evidence in AI detection cases, it should not be the sole basis for suspicion and requires human interpretation. Some members think it should be prohibited from campus altogether.
- CELT announced plans for a student panel to discuss AI-related questions.

Updates

- CELT & DoIT led updates regarding educational tools, particularly Feedback Fruits, which is being piloted this fall after being purchased over the summer. There was discussion on the tool's implementation, including concerns about its AI-powered automated grading features.
- A faculty group on campus is being organized by the university admin, AI Teaching and Learning Advisory Council, to discuss AI in teaching and learning. SCEDIT is to nominate a committee member to be on the council.
- CELT provided updates on various educational tools implemented, including VVox, Lumi, and Grackle Docs, and requested feedback from faculty on their effectiveness.
- The meeting focused on several updates and action items related to membership. Richard Larson's departure from the Executive Senate necessitated finding a new liaison. Brenda Anderson has assumed the role.

The conversation ended with agenda items requested for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM