The Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures (CAPP) submits the following definition of plagiarism for the consideration of the Academic Affairs Committee of Faculty Senate. Paragraphs a and b state the current plagiarism policy form the University Handbook, (Appendix F, Academic Dishonesty, ¶ 3) with the exception of the underlined portion of paragraph b which was added by CAPP. Paragraph c is taken from the Graduate School Catalog.

The CAPP committee has two reasons for proposing these changes. First, it wishes to emphasize that plagiarism involves more than printed material. Second, it wants students to know that plagiarism is, in some cases, discipline specific.

A. Cheating: Plagiarism

1. Definition of plagiarism.

   a. “Plagiarism is the academic and literary equivalent of robbery, taking somebody else's property. If you copy somebody's test answers, take an essay from a magazine and pass it off as your own, lift a well-phrased sentence or two and include them without crediting the author or using quotation marks, or even pass off somebody's good ideas as examples of your own genius, you are guilty of intellectual thievery. If you are caught you should expect punishment or contempt or both." (Quote from Robert M. Gorrell and Charlton Laid, Modern English Handbook, 6th edition (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1976), p. 71.)

   b. Plagiarism covers unpublished as well as published sources from any type of medium (paper, film, or other forms of technology); borrowing another's term paper, handing in as one's own work a paper purchased from an individual or agency, or submitting as one's own any papers from living group's, club's, or organization's files; all are punishable as plagiarism.

   c. “The standard for attribution and acknowledgment of literary indebtedness is set by each discipline. Students should consult with their department or with recognized handbooks in their field if in doubt.” (Quote from Kansas State University Graduate Catalog, www.k-state.edu/grad/gscurrent/catalog/regulate.htm, Plagiarism, ¶ 2, October 2007.)

2. Avoidance of Plagiarism: “Acknowledge indebtedness”: