

Boiler Plate?

By Duane Cobb

So, it seems that CoB accountant Patty Munn believes that institutional governance documents, such as a university's integrity policy, are "boiler plate" documents and can be copied "without proper citation" by anyone wishing to use them. Munn and others are now using the "boiler plate" argument to justify the CoB's (Doty administration's) copying of the academic integrity policy developed by Syracuse University's Whitman School. These days SU is working under an umbrella academic integrity document, and it is available to the general public at the SU [Provost's page](#). If you visit that site you will find that SU officials adapted portions of their policy from various sources, with permission (see below).

*Portions of this policy are adapted from the following sources, with permission: Council of Writing Program Administrators. "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: WPA Statement on Best Policies." Council of Writing Program Administrators, January 2003. <http://www.wpacouncil.org/positions/index.html>>. Howard, Rebecca Moore. "A Plagiarism Pentimento." *Journal of Teaching Writing* (Summer 1993). 233-245.*

Further review of the SU academic integrity statement also reveals that it was based on academic integrity policies of other institutions, such as Cornell University, Georgetown University, and Duke University, to name just three (see below).

Portions of this policy are based on the academic integrity policies of Boston College, Cornell University, Duke University, Georgetown University, the University of Maryland, and former policies of Syracuse University's School of Architecture, College of Arts and Sciences, L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Education, College of Human Services and Health Professions, School of Information Studies, Whitman School of Management, and College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Also included in the above credits are the various Schools and Colleges at SU, whose own individual academic integrity policies were helpful in the development of SU's omnibus academic integrity statement. One of these is none other than SU's **Whitman School of Management**. It would seem, then, that SU -- a Top National institution -- understands that attribution, even in the case of so-called governance documents (i.e., non-scholarly product), is an important virtue. Not only that, SU goes so far as to acknowledge the work done by various divisions of itself, such as the Whitman School. At the same time, a Tier IV institution like USM, and its administration sycophants like Munn, don't believe the same. Instead, these actors call governance documents "boiler plate," available to be pillaged and plundered whenever helpful.