

Resolution on Student Accommodations

Discussion & Vote

Charles Van Loan
Dean of Faculty

History

Presented at Sept 18 Senate.

Small but important modifications made based on discussion and online postings.

The Resolution

Whereas the Code of Academic Integrity specifies that “during in-class examinations no student may use, give, or receive any assistance or information not given in the examination or by the proctor.”

Whereas instructors, proctors, and exam-takers have a responsibility to prevent exam-related Code violations,

Be it resolved that **unless the instructor or Student Disability Services grants an explicit exception**, students may not handle or access a cell phone or electronic device at any time during an exam. This includes smart watches, smart clothing, fitness bands, earpieces, or any device that has a recording, internet, or communication capability.

Changes based on feedback marked in red.

The Resolution (Cont'd)

Be it further resolved that during an exam all such devices shall be turned off or disabled and placed out of sight if so requested by the proctor;

Be it further resolved that ~~all ordinary~~ watches **provided by the student** shall be placed out of sight if so requested by the proctor and there is wall clock (or equivalent);

Be it further resolved that the use of ~~ordinary~~ writing instruments **provided by the student** can be disallowed if alternative writing instruments are supplied by the proctor.

Changes based on feedback marked in red.

Possible Follow-Up

There was discussion about having an honor code and whether it might be more productive to investigate the root causes of cheating.

Please step forward if you would like to lead an effort in this direction.

Honor Code Examples: [Brown](#), [Princeton](#), [Stanford](#)

Opposing View: [Why Colleges Should Ditch Honor Codes](#) (*Washington Post*, 2015)

Arms Race: [TurnItIn](#), [Proctorio](#)

Call For a Vote

I support the proposed resolution on [Preventing Device-Enabled Cheating on Exams.](#)

Yes _____

No _____

Abstain _____

Resolution on Student Accommodations

Discussion and Vote

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Dean of Faculty

History

Sept 2018 Senate discussion

Developed over 2018-19.

Resolution posted May2019

Further fine tuning of Summer

Online commenting in September.

What's the Problem?

The Faculty Handbook has some language about [religious observance accommodations](#).

It says little or nothing about [other accommodations](#), e.g., disabilities, varsity athletics, job interviews, family emergencies, medical emergencies, extracurricular activities, etc.

Things are generally working, but the number of negative accommodation stories that come my way signals a need for more work on this topic.

Practical guidelines and clarity are necessary to reduce angst and confusion...

The Resolution

If approved then what the Faculty Handbook says about student accommodations will be replaced with this [single comprehensive section](#) that offers examples and covers:

[Disabilities](#)

[Religious Observance](#)

[Title IX-Related Accommodations](#)

[Varsity Athletics](#)

[Medical Accommodations](#)

[Military Service Accommodations](#)

[Variety of Other Situations](#)

Remaining Concerns

Some faculty are feeling overwhelmed by the increasing number of requests. We have to address this issue. We have to “accommodate the accommodators”. Testing center? Proctor support?

A well-functioning accommodation scene depends on trust. This has to be stressed.

Call For a Vote

I support the proposed [Faculty Handbook section](#) on Student Accommodations.

Yes _____

No _____

Abstain _____

Resolution on Grade Change Policy

Discussion

Professor Richard Bense
Government

Resolution on Changes in Grading Policy

Whereas the University has been changing course grades without notifying the instructor of record and, thus, without the consent of the instructor,

Whereas this change in grading policy was initiated without the knowledge of the Faculty Senate,

Whereas faculty determination of course grades is a fundamental right of the faculty as stated in the Faculty Handbook,

Whereas grading policy is a fundamental part of the educational policy of the University,

Whereas all changes in educational policy must come before the Faculty Senate before they are instituted by the University,

Resolved, that the University suspend the policy of changing course grades without the consent of the instructor until the Faculty Senate has been consulted and has approved any changes in the grading policy.

Justification for the Resolution

- **Like all changes involving the educational practices of the University, any policy that permits grade changes without the consent of the instructor must be discussed in and approved by the Faculty Senate.**
- **The administrative protocols allowing for changes in grades were instituted in secret and evidently continue to be in operation.**
- **Dean Van Loan said in his synopsis relaying the outcome of voting in May, “this is the best we can do at this time.” However, it is not the best we can do now in October.**
- **By suspending the protocols, we wish to (a) compel the University to describe the new grading policy in order to (b) permit the Faculty Senate to deliberate and vote on the design of that policy.**

President Pollack's Email Reply

- Thanks for your message. Regarding the resolution on grade change protocols passed by the Faculty Senate last spring, if you think the content of the resolution or the way it was presented was flawed, then you should act on your concerns through the Senate.
(President Pollack)