Advocate for the Protection of Online Learning Integrity

Whereas, During the last decade, there has been significant support from the California Legislature for online and distance education to improve access to California Community Colleges, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, online course offerings at California Community Colleges have increased dramatically and enrollment trends indicate a continued increased interest in online learning, and;

Whereas, Faculty have engaged in professional development including strategies, pedagogies, and course design for online learning all while meeting Federal and State regulations to provide sustainable and flexible access to college in order to meet the increasing demand for high quality remote learning, and;

Whereas, The sharp increase in online learning has also created an economic market for educational fraud where companies sell their services to take courses on behalf of students for a fee or companies masquerading as study sites but in practice are fraud libraries providing paying users answers to assignments or access to essays for sale as documented in reporting from [The Los Angeles Times](https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-10-24/online-cheating-apps-remote-learning)[[1]](#footnote-1), [The Atlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/11/cheating-through-online-courses/413770/)[[2]](#footnote-2), and [The Hechinger Report](https://hechingerreport.org/another-problem-with-shifting-education-online-cheating/)[[3]](#footnote-3) and thus violate the integrity of degrees and security of college enterprise systems, and;

Whereas, It is evident that online education is here to stay and the solution to the nefarious mischiefs caused by this growing cottage industry of fraud is to innovate and protect the integrity of online courses and enterprise systems, not to backtrack from this inclusive learning modality.

Resolved, That the ASCCC advocate with the Chancellor’s Office for vital resources to support local IT departments in the implementation of additional online learning protections such as multifactor authentication or IP address monitoring to help protect against educational fraud, and;

Resolved, The ASCCC advocate with the Chancellor’s Office for additional resources to support local procurement of online learning tools that assist faculty in monitoring academic dishonesty, and;

Resolved, The ASCCC advocate with the Chancellor’s Office for continued and expanded support of professional development for faculty in additional pedagogical skills to help prevent and identify educational fraud of this nature.

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1. <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-10-24/online-cheating-apps-remote-learning> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/11/cheating-through-online-courses/413770/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://hechingerreport.org/another-problem-with-shifting-education-online-cheating/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)