

Santa Monica College Academic Senate Resolution

Alternative Proctoring Techniques

6/2/21

Whereas proctoring software has become more prevalent as distance education has become increasingly common, popular, and necessary,

Whereas the covid-19 pandemic has highlighted some of the existing obstacles in implementing proctoring software such as privacy and intrusion concerns, inequitable access to technology, the need to maintain flexible assessment times for both international and nontraditional students, and ensuring the academic integrity of our courses and programs,

Whereas the student body of Santa Monica College (SMC) is a proudly diverse population with different identities, educational experiences and goals, abilities and positionalities within higher education, and whereas student groups, such as Black Collegians and Adelante, as well as faculty, have expressed concerns about racist, ableist, transphobic and intrusive aspects of third-party proctoring software,

Whereas, per the SMC honor code, faculty "...strive to create a learning environment that is challenging and supportive of the community at-large. We are committed to upholding fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, civility, and community."

Whereas SMC's mission to provide "a safe, inclusive, and dynamic learning environment that encourages personal and intellectual exploration- one that challenges and supports students in achieving their educational goals," may be at odds with the utilization of third-party proctoring software in some cases...

Resolved, SMC will provide alternative proctoring options and a clearly demarcated "opt out" feature for students who cannot participate in the third-party proctoring techniques required by a specific course. These alternatives may include but is not limited to alternative zoom and physical proctoring by appointment, and commensurate alternative assessments developed by faculty,

Resolved, the SMC Academic Senate recommends the college **provide resources** for faculty **and students from all affected disciplines to continue the good work they have done developing and revising best practices** for implementing third-party proctoring software and engage in ongoing and sustained

professional development opportunities to cultivate alternative assessment practices for both online and on ground classes,

Be it further resolved, the SMC academic senate recommends that faculty, The Office of Academic Affairs, and the Office of Student Services, continue to investigate, monitor, and mitigate any negative impacts on students when implementing third party proctoring software as it relates to religious dress (hijab, head coverings, etc.), skin tone, gender, hairstyle, disability and other physical characteristics, as well as concerns related to access, intrusion, and privacy.