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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)

Catherine Sugar, Chair

csugar@ucla.edu

September 23, 2025

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, UC Academic Council

RE: Annual Reminder about Threats to Academic Integrity and Intellectual Property

Dear Ahmet,

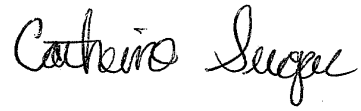
The University Committee on Educational Policy ([UCEP](#)) is pleased to submit the attached annual reminder about threats to academic integrity and intellectual property. We request that Academic Council endorse the annual reminder and transmit it to the Divisional Academic Senate Chairs.

The committee has discussed issues related to violations of academic integrity and infringement of faculty intellectual property rights for the past few years in an effort to understand the nature and scope of this intractable problem. Our efforts to identify possible solutions have entailed consultation with UC Legal and gathering information about the campus resources, policies and procedures for responding to academic dishonesty. Based on all that we learned, UCEP concluded that raising faculty awareness of these issues and encouraging them to be proactive would be valuable strategies.

Thus, the committee developed a set of recommendations outlining various steps faculty can take to thwart cheating and infringements on intellectual property. We propose sending the reminder to Council on an annual basis each September for dissemination to the campuses. UCEP asks that Council approve this plan and endorse the annual reminder.

UCEP appreciates your consideration. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Catherine Sugar". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Catherine" and last name "Sugar" clearly distinguishable.

Catherine Sugar, Chair
UCEP



**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
ANNUAL REMINDER ABOUT THREATS TO
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

This is a reminder from the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) to all University of California faculty to be vigilant about the threats to academic integrity and intellectual property posed by online services where students share copyrighted course materials and pay third parties for completing students' assignments, papers, and exams.

Posting of instructor-owned course materials to third-party websites without the instructor's permission is especially problematic because it may at once violate intellectual property rights, provide opportunities for students to cheat, and financially enrich these third-party online services. In an effort to mitigate these risks, we recommend several measures:

- (1) remind students of the specific actions that constitute violations of academic integrity and intellectual property policies and of the serious consequences of committing such violations. This can be done through statements in course syllabi and announcements in class meetings at the beginning of each quarter or semester.
- (2) include a copyright notice on your course materials. For some guidance on copyright notices, please see the following link: <https://copyright.universityofcalifornia.edu/faqs/#h>.
- (3) include the following sentence in your course materials in the header or footer of course materials: *"This content is protected and may not be shared, uploaded, or distributed."* One online service, Course Hero, has indicated that its filtering tool will generally prohibit the upload of documents that contain this statement.
- (4) define whether the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools is acceptable. And, if so, articulate what type of use is acceptable (e.g., are they allowed to share your course materials?). The syllabus should notify students if they are required to acknowledge use of GenAI in their coursework.

The University of California Office of the President (UCOP) has issued similar guidance regarding the unauthorized uploading of course materials; such guidance may be found here: <https://copyright.universityofcalifornia.edu/ownership/protect-course-materials.html>. In addition, each campus has its own policies and procedures related to violations of academic integrity, and faculty should make sure they are fully aware of the most up-to-date information on this topic. The UCOP webpage referenced in this paragraph includes a drop-down menu titled "UC Resources," which includes links to further information about policies and resources on each campus.

UCEP recognizes there are no easy solutions to the unauthorized posting of course materials onto third party websites and that dealing with these issues adds yet another item to a faculty member's long list of responsibilities. The measures referenced in this memo are, however, relatively straightforward and not unduly onerous, especially given the seriousness and importance of the concerns they address.