

**Affirming the Geography and Political Science Department Resolution:  
Advocate Against the Unauthorized Distribution of  
Course Material on For-Profit Websites**

**Resolution 2022 - 06**

Whereas, The Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) Academic Senate is the organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters (Title 5, §53200) and is primarily relied upon for curriculum and instruction, for grading policies, for student preparation and success, for degree and certificate requirements, and for professional development activities (Board Policy 3255); and,

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community College (ASCCC) Spring Plenary Resolution 13.07, “Advocate for the Protection of Online Learning Integrity,” was composed at Mt. SAC and approved by the ASCCC, establishing a statewide initiative to counter nefarious mischiefs caused by growing educational fraud and seeking partnership to innovate to protect the integrity of online courses and enterprise systems; and,

Whereas, The Mt SAC Geography and Political Science Department passed the following Resolution related to protecting online learning:

Advocate Against the Unauthorized Distribution of Course Material on For-Profit Websites  
Geography and Political Science Department Resolution

Whereas, in recognition that the number of for-profit websites that allow students to improperly disseminate course materials, lecture notes, quizzes and exams, and other copyrighted course material is growing, and where websites such as CourseHero and Chegg have amassed incalculable amounts of Mt. San Antonio College course material from countless academic courses, often without instructors knowing that their course material is being improperly disseminated<sup>[1]</sup>; and,

Whereas, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Cooperative for Educational Technologies has found that in order to combat online cheating, institutes of higher education should “update university policies regarding academic integrity” as “[o]utdated policies may not sufficiently address the use of cheating sites at all,”<sup>[2]</sup> and where Institutions of Higher Education such as Ensign College<sup>[3]</sup> and the University of British Columbia<sup>[4]</sup> have recently updated their academic policies to reflect the inappropriateness of disseminating intellectual property without proper consent, and where the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges recognized and advocated for the protection of online learning integrity<sup>[5]</sup>; and,

Whereas, the dissemination of faculty-generated course materials by for-profit organizations or by any unauthorized entity violates faculty intellectual property rights as outlined in the Mt. San Antonio College Faculty Contract, Article 28,<sup>[6]</sup> and the distribution of student-generated course material to for-profit organizations violates Student Academic Honesty (Mt. SAC AP 4290)<sup>[7]</sup> as well as, potentially, the Standard for Student Conduct in California Title 5 § 41301; therefore:

Resolved, the Geography and Political Science Department will share with campus colleagues compiled guidelines outlining best practices for faculty members to protect copyrighted course materials; and,

Resolved, the Geography and Political Science Department seeks collaboration with the Academic Senate to review and distribute best practice guidelines that may help curb the unauthorized dissemination of course material on online websites such as CourseHero and Chegg, including language professors may use when filing copyright infringement claims with said website; and,

Resolved, the Geography and Political Science Department strongly requests that the Academic Senate and Instruction Office advocate with Student Life to amend the Student Standards of Conduct to explicitly prohibit the unauthorized publishing of course material to third-party websites, digitally or otherwise, without the instructor's written permission in compliance with United States copyright law [Title 17, U.S. Code]; and,

Resolved, the Geography and Political Science Department urges the College to adopt institutional solutions to help prevent the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials on online websites such as CourseHero and Chegg by taking measures such as dedicating personnel to researching and filing copyright infringement claims for unlawful publications of course materials.

Resolved, the Mt. SAC Academic Senate affirms the Geography and Political Science Department Resolution; and,

Resolved, the Mt SAC Academic Senate will share the resource guide created by the Geography and Political Science Department and will liaison with the Instruction Office and Student Life Office as called for in the aforementioned departmental resolution.

*Contact: Kelly Rivera, Mt. SAC Academic Senate Co-Vice President*

*Approved at Full Senate on 6/2/2022*

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.coursehero.com/sitemap/states/California/>

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://wcet.wiche.edu/frontiers/2020/10/30/exemplars-in-the-fight-against-syndicate-cheating/>

<sup>[3]</sup> <https://ensign.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2021-2022/Academic-Catalog/Academic-Unit>

<sup>[4]</sup> <https://copyright.ubc.ca/instructor-faq/>

<sup>[5]</sup> [ASCCC, 13.07 S22: Advocate for the Protection of Online Learning Integrity](#) (Added hyperlink)

<sup>[6]</sup> [https://msac-fa.org/news/2019\\_2022\\_Year\\_2\\_of\\_3\\_Faculty\\_Contract.pdf](https://msac-fa.org/news/2019_2022_Year_2_of_3_Faculty_Contract.pdf)

<sup>[7]</sup> <https://www.mtsac.edu/governance/trustees/apbp/AP4290.pdf>