

**Resolution 003**  
**A Resolution to Ban the Use of Third Party Digital Platforms to Proctor Exams**

**Sponsored by: Senator Sijgers**

**Co-Sponsored by: Senator Schlee, Senator Lucardi, Senator Zentz**

**Whereas,**

Most students at The Catholic University of America are taking classes in a virtual format.

**Whereas,**

Often in online classes professors choose to use a third party digital platform, known as a lockdown browser, such as Respondus, ProctorU, Proctorio, among others, to proctor their exams and attempt to prevent cheating.

**Whereas,**

Students' privacy and data are at risk when using these lockdown browsers as historically there have been instances of data breaches with these companies.<sup>12</sup>

**Whereas,**

Many of these browsers depend on artificial intelligence software to assess student behaviors during an exam.<sup>345</sup>

**Whereas,**

The ability of these softwares to properly interpret students' actions and behaviors is known to be faulty and students with abnormal test taking behavior are often flagged erroneously because their normal behaviours are seen as cheating.<sup>67</sup>

**Whereas,**

Adjustments for students with DSS accommodations are not available or provided by these services.

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<sup>1</sup> "Are Schools Forcing Students To Install Spyware That Invades Their Privacy As A Result Of The Coronavirus Lockdown?" Forbes. Accessed on 26 October 2020, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/seanlawson/2020/04/24/are-schools-forcing-students-to-install-spyware-that-invades-their-privacy-as-a-result-of-the-coronavirus-lockdown/#49c95b39638d>

<sup>2</sup> "As college resumes, students protest against invasive proctoring apps" Digital Trends. Accessed 26 October 2020. <https://www.digitaltrends.com/news/cuny-brooklyn-baruch-college-proctoring-apps-student-surveillance-proctorio/>

<sup>3</sup> "Terms of Use/End User License Agreement - LockDown Browser" Respondus. Accessed 26 October 2020, <https://web.respondus.com/tou-ldb/>

<sup>4</sup> "Data Security" Proctorio. Accessed 26 October 2020, <https://proctorio.com/about/data-security>

<sup>5</sup> "Frequently Asked Questions" ProctorU. Accessed 26 October 2020, <https://www.proctoru.com/faq>

<sup>6</sup> "Mass school closures in the wake of the coronavirus are driving a new wave of student surveillance" Washington Post. Accessed 26 October 2020, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/04/01/online-proctoring-college-exams-coronavirus/>

<sup>7</sup> "Alternatives to High Stakes Assessments Chart [PDF]" California State University, Long Beach. Accessed 30 October 2020. [https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/instructional-design/high\\_stake\\_assessments.8.28.20\\_0.pdf](https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/instructional-design/high_stake_assessments.8.28.20_0.pdf)

**Whereas,**

While taking exams on these platforms, students experience heightened anxiety and nervousness because of the lockdown browsers' faulty natures and the presence of a stranger watching them during the exam. In addition, students worry about circumstances they cannot control, such as a household member entering the room where they are taking their test or the internet becoming unstable causing them to be flagged for cheating.<sup>89</sup>

**Whereas,**

There are alternatives to offering proctored exams such as assigning open-book/notes exams, essays that show proficiency in the course, exams written that require students expand on base knowledge to show they have grasped concepts, exams administered on Zoom by the professor that require that student's hands be monitored, or exams with time constraints to make cheating more difficult, among other options.<sup>10</sup>

**Whereas,**

Even with the lockdown browsers in effect, there are still ways for students to cheat on exams. Additionally, a student who has the intent to cheat will find a way to do so regardless of barriers.<sup>11</sup>

**Be it enacted that,**

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America hereby request that Catholic University of America administered exams avoid using third party digital proctoring services in order to protect students' right to privacy and ensure better performance on assessments.

Agreed to by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas to \_\_\_\_\_ nays on this date: \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ abstaining and \_\_\_\_\_ not present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald Sharpe  
*President of the Student Government Association*

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Gemma del Carmen  
*Vice President of the Student Government Association*

<sup>8</sup> "Exam Anxiety: How Remote Test-Proctoring is Creeping Students Out" The Verge. Accessed 26 October 2020, <https://www.theverge.com/2020/4/29/21232777/examity-remote-test-proctoring-online-class-education>

<sup>9</sup> "Alternatives to High Stakes Assessments Chart [PDF]" California State University, Long Beach. Accessed 30 October 2020. [https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/instructional-design/high\\_stake\\_assessments.8.28.20\\_0.pdf](https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/instructional-design/high_stake_assessments.8.28.20_0.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> "Alternatives to High Stakes Assessments Chart [PDF]" California State University, Long Beach. Accessed 30 October 2020. [https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/instructional-design/high\\_stake\\_assessments.8.28.20\\_0.pdf](https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/groups/instructional-design/high_stake_assessments.8.28.20_0.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> "5 Tricks to Bypass Respondus Lockdown Browser 2020" Easy Info Blog. Accessed 30 October 2020. <https://easyinfoblog.com/technology/bypass-respondus-lockdown-browser/>