

Academic Technology Committee Report  
14 May 2020

**1. Statement on course caps (please see attached)**

**2. Update on assessment of Respondus Monitor**

CUNY has decided **not** to provide a University-wide solution for proctoring distance learning exams.

- CUNY unable to reach agreement of Terms & Conditions with vendor (vendor would have required individual students, rather than CUNY, to accept terms and corresponding liability).
- Equity and Ethical Concerns
  - Learning and user data may be sold to assist in creation of predictive tools used by commercial and law enforcement to surveil, track or target individuals.
  - CUNY's student population may be especially vulnerable to privacy risks involved.

CUNY has formed a task force to explore alternative solutions. In the meanwhile, faculty are encouraged to:

- consider alternatives to proctored distance exams (for example, as outlined by [Rutger's University](#) and [UC Berkeley](#)), only using proctored assessments when absolutely necessary (e.g., for accreditation purposes).
- seriously consider practical challenges of using Respondus, should they pursue its use independently, as outlined by [Baruch College's Center for Teaching and Learning](#).

**3. Identifying and addressing needs of faculty across the disciplines**

As part of our initiative to help facilitate the transition to distance education, the Academic Technology Committee has consulted with chairs of all departments, individually, via e-mail, to identify technological tools (e.g., hardware, software, training) that would aid faculty and students, should courses in upcoming terms (beyond Summer 2020) be moved online. Chairs and faculty have been requested to report back to the ATC by Monday, May 18. Responses are being systematically recorded. The ATC will reconvene on May 20 to discuss departmental requests and how they might be addressed.