

Text from the email sent on behalf of the Senate Council on March 17, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As many faculty move to online or other alternative delivery methods for instruction in response to the emergency created by COVID-19, we write to remind you of important issues regarding faculty's intellectual property rights and the recording or distribution of course discussions, videos, or materials.

[Administrative Regulation 7:6](#) provides information regarding faculty rights with respect to the "traditional products of scholarly activity." The AR makes clear that such products, which include course materials, are the property of the faculty. The recorded lectures, live online discussions, digital materials, or other course materials that faculty prepare in order to teach their courses via online and other alternative delivery methods in response to the emergency created by COVID-19 will be governed by AR 7:6, and will remain the unrestricted property of the faculty who produce them.

As is the case for in-person classes, faculty have the right to set their own policies for appropriate classroom behavior and use of electronic equipment during classes offered online or through other alternative delivery methods. Instructors of record can make clear the expectation that class discussions and other materials, even when delivered online, are not to be shared outside of the class. According to the [Student Code of Conduct](#), instructors are permitted to prohibit disruptive behavior and the disruptive use of electronic equipment in their classes. Faculty may clarify in a supplemental statement to the syllabus that students cannot record or share recordings of online class meetings, nor share other materials distributed as part of the class.

Thank you for efforts in these unprecedented times.

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