

Senate Executive Committee Agenda
November 13, 2020 at 2:00 PM over Zoom

1. COVID-19 updates:
 - a. Testing and reporting
 - b. Spring 2020 schedule and teaching
 - c. Budget (Chris Simons)
 - d. Remote teaching
2. Process for Promotion for Lecturers
3. Resolution on Third-Party Testing Services (page 2)
4. Center for Academic Innovation (files attached)
5. Academic integrity software/camera policy (Kim Poolos)
6. Incorrect information from HR about parental leave

Resolution on Third-Party Testing Services

Many faculty are now using third-party testing services designed by publishers such as McGraw-Hill and administered through Canvas. While we recognize these services are particularly convenient for remote and online instruction, we have concerns about third-party tests that require students to pay to take those tests. First, affordability is a major concern for our students and they have repeatedly stated that costs for items such as textbooks are an issue, since they often come as a surprise. An additional charge of over \$70 places an unnecessary burden on many students.

Second, New Jersey state law states that all student fees must be approved by the Board of Trustees of the university. While it is not yet clear if charging students for testing constitutes a fee in the legal sense, it is nonetheless qualitatively different from requiring students to buy a textbook, since students cannot receive a grade unless they purchase the test.

Therefore, we urge faculty to avoid requiring students to purchase third-party testing services unless those tests are necessary for program accreditation or other similar requirements.