Subject: Urgent Feature Request to Prevent Agentic AI Systems from Accessing Canvas Using Student Credentials

To: Jory Hadsell, Vice Chancellor, Technology & Innovation• Chief Technology Officer Foothill DeAnza Community College District, Kristina Whalen, President of Foothill College

From: Foothill Academic Senate

Dear Vice Chancellor Hadsell and President Whalen,

On behalf of the Foothill College Academic Senate, we are writing to initiate a collaborative effort among Academic Senate leadership, college administration, and district technology leadership to proactively address the growing challenges posed by Agentic Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools within our Learning Management System (LMS), Canvas.

Recent developments in Agentic AI such as Perplexity Comet AI, ChatGPT with autonomous capabilities, Atlas browser, Cognition Labs' Devin, Anthropic's Claude Artifacts, and Google's Gemini Agents, demonstrate the ability of these systems to use student-provided credentials to independently navigate LMS environments. These tools can perform academic tasks such as completing quizzes, submitting assignments, and posting to discussions without student participation. Such capabilities present significant risks to academic integrity, student privacy, and institutional compliance with FERPA and data security requirements.

As these technologies evolve at an unprecedented pace, strong leadership and clear institutional guidance are vital to help all members of our community understand and adapt to the rapidly changing AI landscape. Establishing shared principles, providing transparent communication, and creating opportunities for professional learning will empower our community to use AI responsibly while maintaining trust and equity in our educational practices. Guided by intentional leadership, Foothill College can ensure that innovation proceeds hand in hand with ethical and pedagogical integrity.

Vice Chancellor Hadsell, we recommend that you collaborate with Foothill College and the district-wide Educational Technology Services (ETS) to represent the Foothill-De Anza Community College District in a joint request that Instructure (Canvas) develop and implement safeguards designed to protect against agentic AI activity. Specifically, we request that Canvas:

- Detect and block automated agent activity that uses API calls, browser automation, or embedded plugins to simulate student actions.
- Prevent third-party AI agents from authenticating or accessing student accounts through OAuth or similar mechanisms.
- Provide LMS administrators with monitoring tools or dashboards to identify and address patterns of AI-driven interactions.

We respectfully request that the district register this issue as a formal feature request with Instructure and share any available updates or mitigation strategies. We also encourage communication with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office so that this effort can inform a broader systemwide response.

President Whalen, your guidance and support will be critical in convening our college and district teams to address AI tool opportunities and challenges at Foothill College. We recognize that the evolution of Agentic AI is occurring rapidly and that proactive, coordinated leadership is essential. We ask that you create a centralized office or position to steward the synthesis of the opportunities and challenges presented by AI. This position would serve to

- Guide college wide conversations on AI policies and their alignment with our institutional values,
- Explore pedagogical innovation and adaptation in the AI tool landscape in alignment with our Institutional Learning Outcomes,
- Lead professional development surrounding AI
- Centralize conversations around community impacts and implications of AI use.

Your leadership is central to the thoughtful balance of innovation in AI use at Foothill, with the protection of our students' learning environments, data, and academic integrity.

By working together, Foothill College and the Foothill DeAnza Community College District can model a thoughtful, collaborative approach to emerging AI challenges, ensuring that our LMS remains a secure and trustworthy space that promotes authentic student learning while maintaining compliance with FERPA and institutional policies.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting the integrity, privacy, and authenticity of our learning environments as we navigate this new frontier in educational technology.

Sincerely,

K. Allison Lenkeit Meezan,
Faculty Co-Chair of the Teaching with Technology committee