To: Voltaire Villaneueva - President, Foothill College Academic Senate
Erik Woodbury – President, De Anza College Academic Senate
K. Allison Lenkeit Meezan – Faculty Co-Chair, Teaching with Technology
James Capurso – Faculty Co-Chair, Committee On Online Learning

Subject: Response to Joint Academic Senate Request Regarding Agentic AI Protections in Canvas

Date: December 10, 2025

Dear Academic Senate Presidents Villanueva and Woodbury,

Thank you for transmitting the jointly approved letter from the Foothill College and De Anza College Academic Senates regarding the emerging challenges posed by agentic AI systems within the Canvas learning management system (LMS). I want to begin by recognizing the rapidly accelerating pace of AI innovation—particularly the capabilities of agentic tools to log into authenticated environments, navigate course shells, and autonomously complete academic tasks. I understand how this can erode faculty confidence in the integrity of critical educational systems like the LMS, and on behalf of the district, I am committed to working in close coordination with faculty to support appropriate safeguards where possible.

The rise of broadly available agentic browsers over recent months is representative of transformative technology shifts now being released or embedded in commercial technologies at an unprecedented pace. Along with faculty, our district's Educational Technology Services team and I are frequently confronted with new AI-based capabilities that create new challenges and opportunities, but which also can rapidly shift operational and security realities in the district technology environments we support. I appreciate the constructive, solutions-focused manner in which faculty have engaged on this issue, as reflected in your letter to me as Chief Technology Officer for the district.

The CVC white paper on *Safeguarding Academic Integrity in the Age of Agentic AI* correctly notes that this current challenge presents pedagogical, ethical, privacy, and security implications for the common online learning environment used in the California Community Colleges, Canvas. I value the Academic Senates' leadership and the clarity articulated in your letter, and I want to reaffirm the district's commitment to a collaborative response and ongoing engagement.

Following are several actions I have already undertaken to begin addressing the concerns raised in your letter. My commitment is that ETS will remain engaged with you as we search for or implement solutions, even as newer capabilities continue to evolve.

1. Formal engagement with Instructure.
Consistent with your request, we have initiated direct engagement with Instructure's executive and product teams to formally register this as a high-priority feature request. We have emphasized the

urgent need for native protections within Canvas, including agent detection and blocking, the ability to restrict or monitor OAuth activity, and improved administrative dashboards and telemetry.

2. Systemwide leadership through the CVC and Chancellor's Office.
CVC Executive Director Marina Aminy and I continue to elevate these concerns to Instructure and other system partners. This includes advocacy for enhanced LMS-level safeguards as well as systemwide coordination on policy, professional development, and technical best practices. In addition, I have been able to signal increased urgency regarding this issue as part of my state-wide technology leadership role. Also, the Digital Center for Innovation, Transformation and Equity (hosted by our district in conjunction with the State Chancellor's Office) has also been activated regarding this issue.

3. Strengthening district security controls, including accelerated MFA for students and tightened authentication pathways.
The district has maintained a roadmap for expanded authentication safeguards, including Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for students. Given the urgency created by agentic AI browsing capabilities, we are accelerating a thoughtful but timely implementation of MFA for student accounts. When deployed in a student-centered and equitable manner, MFA can meaningfully contribute to our layered protection strategy.

In parallel, ETS is tightening authentication pathways within Canvas and related systems, including:

- restricting or eliminating student-level API tokens except when strictly necessary and time-limited,
- strengthening OAuth permissions and reducing available OAuth scopes,
- reviewing session controls and token lifetimes, and
- limiting persistent tokens in alignment with CVC and systemwide security recommendations.

These changes will help reduce the ability of agentic tools to authenticate or act on behalf of students through automated mechanisms.

4. Exploring layered security approaches with enterprise partners.
ETS is actively working with Cloudflare and additional enterprise security partners to evaluate advanced bot detection and traffic-level protections that may deter or identify agentic activity, even when masked by standard browser signatures.

5. Prototype development through Lightleap.AI.
When I first became aware of this issue and its implications, I engaged with N2N Services, our partner on LightleapAI fraud detection, to ask if anti-fraud AI capabilities might be extended to help our faculty identify or prevent misuse of agentic browsers. An initial prototype of an add-on has already been developed and is in early testing. We hope to find value in this tool as it iteratively improves, as part of a multi-layered strategy. Faculty input on that evaluation will be critical going forward and I look forward to working with you on this.

6. District investment in academic technology: creation of a district-wide Canvas LMS system administrator role.
As part of strengthening our districtwide support for academic technology, I am committing to creating a District Canvas LMS system administrator role within ETS. Both college Online Learning teams have done an excellent job supporting Canvas as part of their broader responsibilities. At the same time, college Online Learning leaders have been surfacing requests for some time seeking central

support for the daily administration of an increasingly complex LMS environment. It is clear that the complexity of the emerging AI landscape and the need for consistent districtwide governance require dedicated capacity. Additionally, this role will help the district better support other environments heavily used within instructional contexts (e.g., Zoom, Google) and undertake security reviews and ongoing support for learning tools interoperability (LTI) integrations into Canvas.

7. Campus engagement and open forums.
In alignment with our recent discussions, I look forward to hosting two open forums related to Agentic AI in Canvas early in the Winter quarter, as follows:

- **De Anza College:** January 26, 12:00–1:00 p.m., Conference Room A
- **Foothill College:** January 27, 1:00–2:00 p.m., Appreciation Hall

Given concerns raised by the Academic Senates and the timing of finals, I appreciate your willingness to share information about these forums both *before finals conclude* and again when faculty return for Winter quarter. This will help ensure broad awareness and participation.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of faculty and for articulating a clear and thoughtful set of requests. The collaboration among the Academic Senates, Teaching with Technology Committee, Committee on Online Learning, distance education leadership, and ETS is essential as we navigate these new and rapidly evolving realities. Out of 73 community college districts in our state, who better than Foothill-De Anza with our exceptional faculty, classified professionals, and ties to Silicon Valley to *lead* on this challenge? I look forward to continuing this work in partnership to ensure our instructional environments remain secure, equitable, and true to the principles of academic integrity.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jory Hadsell
Vice Chancellor, Technology & Innovation
Chief Technology Officer
Foothill–De Anza Community College District

Cc:
Lee Lambert, Chancellor
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