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

From: Foothill Academic Senate and DeAnza Academic Senate

Dear Vice Chancellor Hadsell,

On behalf of the Foothill College Academic Senate and the DeAnza College Academic Senate, we are writing to initiate a collaborative effort among the Academic Senate leaders, college administration, and district technology leaders 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, Microsoft CoPilot 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, AP 3250, AP 3260 and data security requirements.

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 you to leverage our district's voice in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office as well as the California Virtual Campus (CVC) so that we can emphasize to Instructure the scope of this issue and engender a broader systemwide response.

We recommend that you collaborate with Foothill and DeAnza Colleges 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.

December 1, 2025

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, our district and Foothill College can ensure that innovation proceeds hand in hand with ethical and pedagogical integrity.

By working together, Foothill College, DeAnza 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,

Voltaire Villanueva,   Erik Woodbury,
President, Foothill College Academic Senate   President, DeAnza College Academic Senate

K. Allison Lenkeit Meezan,   James Capurso,
Faculty Co-Chair, Teaching with Technology   Faculty Co-Chair, Committee On Online Learning