

Resolution on webcam use in classrooms and meeting spaces

Whereas webcams were installed in several lecture halls and classrooms around campus and are used to monitor these spaces without any publicized indication that a webcam is in use and

Whereas faculty teaching, and students learning, in those rooms were not fully informed of the presence of these webcams or their intended purpose and

Whereas faculty teaching in these rooms were not aware that there is both audio and video feed available through these webcams and that both audio and video are being monitored by professional staff and work study students and

Whereas there is no current policy or set of procedures governing the monitoring of these webcams, or the use of these data feeds by administration, including department chairs, for monitoring faculty while teaching and

Whereas the webcams were installed in rooms that are not only used for teaching and learning but confidential meetings and

Whereas there are no webcam controls within the room where these webcams are installed such that they can be disabled for confidentiality purposes and

Whereas there is no indication that the staff and students monitoring the webcams have signed non-disclosure agreements or a set of policy statements regarding monitoring protocols and

Whereas there has been some indication that these webcams may not be used solely for the purposes for which they were intended;

Therefore be it resolved that the webcams in all classrooms and meeting rooms be turned off immediately and remain off until such time as the campus community approves a set of policies and procedures governing the appropriate use and monitoring of webcams in the classroom.

Be it further resolved that a task force be convened composed of the Executive Chair of Faculty Governance (or her/his designee), the Vice President for Administration (or her/his designee), the Director of Information Technology, Chief of University Police (or her/his designee), the UUP President (or her/his designee), faculty (no more than four), a representative from the Undergraduate Student Association and Graduate Student Association. This task force is charged with making recommendations to the faculty and administration regarding the use of webcams in the classroom, drafting the policies and procedures, which will be reviewed by SUNY ESF Legal Counsel, for webcam use and monitoring should they be reinstated. The task force will report their recommendations at the April 30, 2014 Faculty Governance Meeting.