



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
College of Education  
Department of Educational Policy Studies

360 Education  
1310 South Sixth  
Champaign IL 61820

Nancy Cantor, Chancellor  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

August 29, 2001

Dear Chancellor Cantor,

The CCG recommends the following changes to the wording of Rule 33, which identifies as a form of academic misconduct:

CG 01.09

33.I.I The sale to a commercial note-taking service of classroom lecture notes or instructor-provided materials if the instructor has explicitly requested that this not be done.

(and moving the current 33.I.I to 33.I.J)

Many faculty members have become increasingly concerned about the taking and sale of class notes taken virtually verbatim from their lectures. While there is a dispute over whether this constitutes a violation of copyright or intellectual property, we preferred to focus on another aspect of this problem, which is the impact of such notes on class attendance and the way in which students do or do not take independent responsibility for mastering the lecture content in class. As such, we believe that commercial note-taking can interfere with faculty members' prerogatives to manage their classroom in accord with their own educational objectives (which may include expecting students to attend class and take their own notes). We felt that this problem has to be resolved on the "supply side" if it is to be addressed on the "demand side."

To be sure, other faculty do not mind the use of commercial notes in their classes, and some may even encourage them as a supplement to the student's own notes. In any event, it is a matter of the instructor's educational philosophy and aims, and the right to manage his or her classroom in accord with them.

Nicholas C. Burbules  
Chair, Conference on Conduct Governance

cc:  
Robert Fossum, Chair, Senate Council