



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

## *Student Government Association*

### Resolution 31-08

#### **A Resolution to Expand the Academic Honesty Policy**

Authored by: Senator Allison Fine, Access and Opportunity; Senator Jan Joho, At-Large,  
Senator Matthew McDaniel, Terry College of Business

Sponsored by: Senator Patrick Femia, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

WHEREAS, the Academic Honesty Policy relating to technology prohibits “the unauthorized use of a calculator, cell phone, mobile device or programmable device during a test;<sup>1</sup>” and,

WHEREAS, smartwatches are a relatively new addition to everyday technology and do not truly fall under the categories laid out in the current Academic Honesty Policy; and,

WHEREAS, fifty-three percent of academic honesty violations were a result of some type of unauthorized assistance;<sup>2</sup> and,

WHEREAS, national standardized examinations such as the Graduate Records Examination (GRE), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and American College Testing (ACT) prohibit smartwatches in testing rooms;<sup>3,4,5</sup> and,

WHEREAS, there are inconsistent policies among various departments on campus relating to whether a student is or is not allowed to wear a smartwatch for a University examination; and,

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<sup>1</sup> University of Georgia. “Academic Honesty Policy.” *University of Georgia Academic Honesty*, 15 May 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Griffeth, Phillip Comer. “Annual Report on Academic Honesty Cases 2017-2018.” *University of Georgia Academic Honesty*, 17 October 2018

<sup>3</sup> ETS® GRE®. “Test Center Procedures and Regulations for the GRE®.” Retrieved from [https://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/test\\_day/](https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/test_day/)

<sup>4</sup> College Board. Phone and Electronic Device Policy for the SAT®.” Retrieved from [collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/taking-the-test/phone-electronic-device-policy](http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/taking-the-test/phone-electronic-device-policy)

<sup>5</sup> College Board. 2018-2019 Terms and Conditions: Testing Rules and Policies for the ACT®, Retrieved from [www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Terms-and-Conditions.pdf](http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Terms-and-Conditions.pdf)

WHEREAS, the Academic Honesty Policy needs to explicitly state examination policies relating to technology to ensure all students are competing on an equal and fair basis; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, smartwatches should be turned off and put away during an examination. If a smartwatch is visible to the instructor during tests or quizzes, the student may be reported for academic dishonesty; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Academic Honesty Policy under the “Prohibited Conducts” section, paragraph B, “Unauthorized Assistance,” subsection “iv,” shall be amended to include the following:

*“Unauthorized use of a programmable calculator, cell phone, mobile device, smartwatch, or other programmable devices,”*

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, upon passage of this legislation, Senators Fine, Joho, and McDaniel will establish a formal bill for the Educational Affairs Committee of the University of Council shall consider the above amendment to the Academic Honesty Policy, as stated above, and, if passed, work with the Executive Committee of the University Council to oversee its campus-wide implementation.