

Motion: The Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) moves adoption of a policy governing recordings of class sessions.

Rationale: Skidmore College, unlike many of its peer and aspirant institutions, does not currently have a policy that describes when recordings of class sessions can be made, and how such recordings can be used. The effort to create such a policy arises from a sense that its absence creates confusion and deprives the college of an adjudicatory pathway when recordings are misused.

In drafting this language, CEPP is mindful that any recording policy must cover a range of possible issues. These include anything from accidental misunderstandings about class policies to instances in which a class recording is shared widely or distributed to the media for the purposes of harassment or political targeting. As such, CEPP seeks not to ban recording, but to craft a policy that clarifies expectations, leaves room for mistakes, and creates procedures for addressing serious misconduct. In shaping this policy, and especially in outlining potential consequences, CEPP has drawn on the model of the CAS/CAFR policy on disruptive students. CEPP has also consulted, before and during the drafting stage, with CAS, CAFR, Academic Council, and with the Dean of the Faculty's office, where the idea for this policy originated. If implemented, the policy will be housed on CEPP's website, on the Dean of the Faculty's [Policies and Guidelines page](#), and in the Student Handbook.

Proposed Policy:

The recording of class sessions is only permitted when authorized either by the relevant disability accommodation process or by the explicit consent of the instructor. Skidmore also recognizes that the inappropriate use of such recordings (whether the initial recording was authorized or not) can infringe upon the academic freedom of both instructors and students, and constitutes a breach of conduct. Consequently, Skidmore College explicitly prohibits the sharing or publication of class session recordings without the written consent of the instructor.

Unauthorized recording and/or the misuse of recordings may result in a lowered course grade, at the discretion of the instructor. Other consequences, including involuntary withdrawal (W, WF) or referral to student conduct, will be determined through a consultative process that involves the instructor, their department chair or program director, and the Associate Dean of the Faculty for Student Academic Affairs. A recommendation for involuntary course withdrawal requires the concurrence of the instructor and one other member of the consulting team. Recommendations for involuntary withdrawal are made to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Student Affairs, who together decide on a final outcome.