Boulder Faculty Assembly
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

November 12, 2021

To: Provost Russell Moore
From: BFA Proctorio Review Subcommittee
CC: BFA Executive Committee

Re: Findings regarding Proctorio as a CU-Boulder campus and academic good

Background:
In response to a request from the Provost's Office to gauge faculty attitudes about the costs and benefits of continuing a full-campus subscription to the online exam proctoring tool, Proctorio, on August 12, 2021 BFA Chair, Tiffany Beechy, and BFA Program Coordinator, Lynne Howard, convened a subcommittee with the chairs of the BFA Academic Affairs Committee, Seth Myers, the Administrative Services and Technology Committee, Janet Casagrand, and the Student Affairs Committee, Lev Szentkirályi. The BFA Executive Committee approved the creation of the Subcommittee on August 20, 2021. The Subcommittee held listening sessions with multiple campus faculty and partners (outlined in the full report) from September through October, solicited feedback with email, and consulted extensively with AVC/AVP Aisha Jackson of the Office of Information Technology.

Dear Provost Moore,

After thorough review of the information gathered from its faculty focus groups, the BFA Proctorio Review Subcommittee finds that there is not enough evidence to make any definitive recommendation regarding the campus-wide subscription to Proctorio. Further study on the use of this software at CU, as well as on the diverse ethical concerns, labor concerns, pedagogical implications, and necessary training, is required to determine how Proctorio impacts our campus before an informed judgment can be made. The Subcommittee also recommends that this more comprehensive study include several other key campus stakeholders (detailed in the closing of the full report), not the least of which include the Center for Teaching and Learning; Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement; University of Colorado Student Government; and Graduate and Professional Student Government.

The Subcommittee reviewed OIT and Proctorio data regarding the number of students, courses, faculty, and others who have used Proctorio since 2019. While these data came from different sources and were difficult to synthesize, this initial, preliminary analysis suggests that further study is needed to determine how our campus community would be impacted by any change to the existing Proctorio subscription. For instance, specific focus should be given to the possible

impact of first-year and transfer students, who enroll in large introductory courses outside of their schools or colleges: such consideration may illuminate the potential disproportionate or unfair costs that would fall on particular academic units if the University were to end its campus-wide subscription. These considerations are discussed in more detail in the concluding section of the full report.

Additionally, our conversations with faculty revealed a differentiated attitude toward various ethical, pedagogical, and practical implications of the use of this software. A majority of the faculty our Subcommittee met with enthusiastically use this software, noting for instance that this software permits flexibility for testing times, locations, and accommodations, and that it deters academic misconduct. It should be stressed, however, that the small number of faculty who agreed to participate in our focus groups were not representative of our broader campus, and that *no* faculty members who deliberately avoid using Proctorio participated in this cursory study. Some of the other faculty members with whom our Subcommittee met raised privacy and equity concerns, issues of bandwidth, and worries over the pedagogical implications of this kind of proctoring. These advantages and disadvantages are outlined in detail in the full report.

For these reasons, as the full report details, our Subcommittee determined that at this time there is insufficient evidence to make any definitive recommendation regarding the campus-wide subscription to Proctorio.

Sincerely,

Janet Casagrand
Seth Myers
Lev Szentkirályi

Reviewed and approved by the BFA Executive Committee on