

**Resolution about Ethics Point Software (Approved by Faculty Senate on December 10, 2012)**

**Whereas,** The service provided by Ethics Point allows for the filing of anonymous complaints against students, faculty, and staff, and

**Whereas,** These anonymous charges will be investigated by the University, even if the charges are minor or baseless, and

**Whereas,** Anonymous reporting offers no accountability for someone making an unwarranted accusation, and

**Whereas,** SACS does not require a system for anonymous reporting in order to be in compliance, and

**Whereas,** Section 4.5 of the SACS Policy Manual refers to compliance standards for handling “written student complaints,” and

**Whereas,** UNC Greensboro, UNC Wilmington, East Carolina, UNC Charlotte, and UNC Chapel Hill do not have student complaint systems in place for the filing of anonymous student complaints, but instead offer a system of “confidential” reporting, and

**Whereas,** The use of anonymous accusations is antithetical to the creation and maintenance of the values of openness and cooperation that are the foundation of a community of scholars, and

**Whereas,** The use of anonymous reporting will contribute to the creation of an environment of distrust and suspicion that will detract from the atmosphere of academic freedom necessary for the educational values of the institution to flourish, and

**Whereas,** The use of the Ethics Point has the potential to centralize the reporting structure for complaints undermining the role of deans and chairs in resolving complaints against faculty members, and

**Whereas,** The purchase of the services provided by Ethics Point was carried out without consultation with the faculty, thus violating the spirit of shared governance; therefore, be it

**Resolved, That** the Faculty Senate at ASU calls upon the Provost to suspend implementation of Ethics Point in order to work out the details of a system that is both compliant with SACS requirements and consistent with the values of the academic community; therefore, be it

**Further Resolved, That** the Faculty Senate opposes the creation of a formal system of anonymous reporting; therefore, be it

**Further Resolved, That** the Faculty Senate opposes the imposition of any top-down system of dispute resolution that would impede the judgment of chairs and deans in dispute resolution; therefore, be it

**Further Resolved, That** the Faculty Senate believes that creating a compliance system that is both in accordance with SACS and the value system of the academic community can best be achieved by adopting compliance standards similar to our sister institutions in the UNC system; and therefore, be it

**Further Resolved, That** the Faculty Senate is prepared to work with Academic Affairs to resolve all of our compliance issues.