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To: [ACADEMIC-SENATE](#)
Cc: [David Williams](#); [Celia Esposito-Noy](#); [Lisa Neeley](#)
Subject: Senate discussion topic on Monday: ChatGPT
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 11:48:48 AM

Hello all,

On Monday we'll be discussing ChatGPT, its impact on our school/classrooms, and what role the Senate might have as the campus wrestles with this new technology. In preparation, I wanted to share with you some resources.

First, if you haven't already done so, I recommend you play around a little with [ChatGPT](#), including giving it any prompts/questions you provide students. I asked it to compare/contrast two poems we're discussing in my class, and it did write a coherent (but not inspiring) essay in response in less than two minutes. It also has quite a few opinions as to how best we can utilize ChatGPT at Solano College (see below).

The Chronicle of Higher Education also recently hosted [a roundtable](#), where faculty discussed "the potential and pitfalls of an AI-enabled academic future." It's interesting and worth a listen if you have an hour.

Some have catastrophized this future ([this op-ed](#) compares this moment to the beginning of the COVID pandemic), others blame academia (like [this letter to the editor](#)), while still [others](#) believe ChatGPT offers us the opportunity to put the nail in the coffin of a system and way of instruction that does not benefit or honor our students or the learning process).

For our meeting, I want us to focus on three questions:

1. How do we see ChatGPT impacting our college now, and how do we predict it might impact the teaching and learning experience over the next 5 years? (we will be sure to save these notes for our future colleagues to enjoy over cyber-beer and tea)
2. What do we believe is the most student- and learning-centered response? How should we engage AI in our classrooms?
3. Is there a further role for the Academic Senate in this conversation? Should we advocate for policies, resources, or professional development?

I'm looking forward to the conversation. Below is a transcript of a short (4 minute) conversation I had with ChatGPT as I was preparing for this meeting.

Josh

Me: [How might chatgpt impact Solano Community college?](#)

ChatGPT

10:48

As an AI language model, I am not aware of the specific plans or strategies of Solano Community College for utilizing chatbots like ChatGPT. However, here are some possible ways in which

ChatGPT could impact Solano Community College:

1. **Improved Student Services:** One of the significant impacts of ChatGPT on Solano Community College could be improved student services. Students could use ChatGPT to get quick answers to their questions related to admission, courses, fees, campus life, etc. This could reduce the burden on college staff, allowing them to focus on other important tasks.
2. **Better Engagement with Students:** Another impact of ChatGPT could be better engagement with students. The chatbot could be customized to provide personalized assistance to students, helping them navigate through the college environment and providing them with the necessary resources and support.
3. **Enhanced Learning Experiences:** Chatbots like ChatGPT are also useful for enhancing the learning experiences of students. The chatbot could be programmed to provide additional information on specific topics or help students with their assignments.
4. **Cost-Effective:** ChatGPT could be a cost-effective solution for Solano Community College. By reducing the need for manual intervention, the college could save time and money while improving the quality of its services.

Overall, the impact of ChatGPT on Solano Community College would depend on how effectively the college integrates the technology into its operations and how well it meets the needs and expectations of its students.

Me: [how should teachers respond to chatgpt? Is chat gpt a threat to academic integrity and the learning experience?](#)

ChatGPT

10:51

As an AI language model, ChatGPT can be a helpful tool for teachers to enhance student learning experiences. It can be used in various ways, such as providing instant feedback on assignments, answering students' questions, or generating personalized study materials.

However, it is important to note that ChatGPT should not be solely relied upon for academic purposes. Teachers should still prioritize traditional teaching methods and encourage critical thinking skills. Furthermore, they should monitor the use of ChatGPT to ensure that it is not being misused as a tool for plagiarism or cheating.

In summary, ChatGPT can be a useful aid for teachers, but it should be used responsibly and with

caution. Ultimately, it is up to the teacher to determine how best to utilize this technology in their classroom while maintaining academic integrity and enhancing the learning experience.

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