


**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** September 1, 2016

**TO:** All Students 

**FROM:** Donald G. Nieman  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

**SUBJECT:** Commercialization of Student Class Notes

As you are no doubt aware, various websites (OneClass, for example) provide a forum for the sale of class notes. I am writing to make you all aware of the possible consequences of engaging in such activity.

Students engaging in the upload of notes for pay using the University network may be in violation of the University's Computing and Network Policy (Acceptable Use) which explicitly prohibits using University computing resources for private commercial purposes [ See: <http://its.binghamton.edu/policies/acceptable-use> ].

Second, violations of educational fair use in copyright of course materials may be involved, especially where those materials or faculty intellectual property are reproduced or copyrighted materials extensively quoted. For some general information on copyright issues see the University Fair Use and Copyright Policy at <http://www2.binghamton.edu/academics/provost/faculty-staff-handbook/handbook-xiii.html>. Copyright violations can expose you to fines and penalties in addition to University action.

Beyond the policy and legal issues identified above, there is no guarantee of the completeness or quality of notes purchased through a third party. Moreover, student notes, no matter how good, are unlikely to prove an adequate substitute for actually attending class.

I hope that the information above will help you to make informed choices about buying or selling such materials.

cc: All Faculty - FYI