



Dear Colleagues,

The end of the semester draws closer. As we approach summer, uncertainty lingers. There are open questions involving the University's budget and how academic units will manage the recurring cut from the pandemic. We await a new chief academic officer, knowing how important this role is and how it reflects on the mission of the institution. Finally, it is not clear if we are at the end of the pandemic or if there is another wave coming to crash upon us.

Now more than ever, it is important for faculty members to reflect on the last year and decide how we move forward. In UK's shared governance system, we all have an important role to play. As the concept of shared governance dictates, our input and support is valuable in almost every significant issue facing our institution. While we may be satisfied with the course of events at times, our silence is not only tacit consent; it erodes our ability to speak in the future when we have stronger opinions. A move toward more centralized decision making likely resulted from an initial need to manage the effects of a global pandemic on an institution of our size and complexity. While a concentration of power makes it easier to make quick decisions, it can lessen the opportunities we have as faculty to make our voices heard. As we begin to see what awaits on the other side of the pandemic, we must speak up on issues within the faculty realm and hold each other accountable for ensuring our individual voices are collectively raised.

The pandemic has robbed us of one of the central elements that enables effective shared governance: connection. Relationships and interaction facilitate the conversations that enable us to contribute as effective partners in governance. More centralized forms of governance do not suffer as much when stripped of the connections through which we thrive. As we emerge from the pandemic, we must

decide how we will exercise the voice of the Faculty to express ourselves, whether that is praise, concern, advice, anger, or approval. The pandemic has sapped us of the energy needed to engage in this shared enterprise. How do we retain our voices within our departments, colleges, and the University as a whole? Consider these things. Discuss with your colleagues. Share your thoughts in your departments and colleges. If you are not sure how to speak, reach out to me or one of the [other Senate Council members](#) or [one of your senators](#). We will help you find an outlet. Whatever you do, do not abandon your important role in our institution moving forward.

The Senate is meeting Monday, April 12th at 3:00 pm. The agenda and information about joining the meeting can be found at <https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/senate/2021-04-12>. The Senate's business includes a memorial resolution for Professor Michael Goodin, a response from Senate's Research and Graduate Education Committee about changes to undergraduate research, consideration of new certificates and University Scholars Programs, a request from the College of Engineering about academic probation, suspension, and dismissal policies, and extension of the digital badge pilot. It is an open meeting, and all are welcome.



Aaron Cramer

Chair, University Senate Council

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2021 Faculty Evaluation of President Eli Capilouto

The University Senate Council is asking for your participation in the annual performance review of President Eli Capilouto. If you are a full-time faculty member, you should have received an invitation (from Senate Council Office Staff Stephanie Woolery) in your email this week to participate. Your responses to the items in the survey are voluntary and confidential. Your responses to the survey are anonymous - your individual responses to questions cannot be tied to either your name or email address. A summary of the results will be presented to the Board of Trustees and the President next academic year. This information will then be posted on the University Senate Council website.

There were some technical issues with the distribution of the invitation. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact [Stephanie Woolery](#).

Microsoft Teams Replacing Skype

ITS recommends that departments migrate to Microsoft Teams due to Skype for Business Online end of life at UK on July 9, 2021. Migrating to Teams will allow customers to perform all their previous functions in Skype for Business (e.g. join video and audio meetings, make calls, and chat) via Teams."

Visit <https://www.uky.edu/its/jointheteam> for more information about Microsoft Teams and upcoming training.



Microsoft Teams
open lab
Join us on Teams to discuss
topics, features, & best practices.

DATE | Wednesday, April 14 1pm-2pm
TOPIC | Teaching with Teams & OneNote

Visit [uky.edu/its/JoinTheTeam](https://www.uky.edu/its/JoinTheTeam)

#JoinTheTeam

Information
Technology Services

Religious Observation Accommodations

As we strive for inclusivity, we encourage faculty to be mindful of holy days observed by students this spring. In particular, the week of finals overlaps with the end of Ramadan. Please take this into consideration as you make accommodations for our Muslim students who might be supported by a different exam time other than an evening when they are breaking their fast.

For more information about religious observation accommodations visit:

<https://www.uky.edu/ombud/religious-observation-accommodations>

Faculty Teaching Student-Athletes

At UK Athletics, Center for Academic and Tutorial Services (CATS) counselors work with student-athletes on issues associated with their academic goals. Faculty who are teaching student-athletes may notice an “observer” on their Canvas roster. This is a CATS counselor who has view-only access to Canvas course information (syllabus and grades) for students with whom they work. This access helps CATS counselors hold student-athletes accountable for their responsibilities in your courses. Please feel free to reach out to CATS counselors to discuss their role. If you are uncomfortable with this, UK

Athletics respects your choice to remove CATS counselors from view-only access. For questions or comments contact Faculty Athletics Representative [Joe Fink](#).

Spring Semester Senate Meeting Dates

April 12, 2021

May 3, 2021

Meetings begin at 3 pm and last approximately two hours.
The Senate currently meets via video conference.

[View Senate Minutes and Agendas](#)

Updated Senate Rules

The Senate Rules have been updated and can be accessed on the Senate Council Website here:
<https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/rules-regulations>.

Faculty Conversations with President Capilouto

President Capilouto hosts small groups of faculty for informal discussions throughout the school year. If you are interested in attending one of these discussions, email stephanie.woolery@uky.edu to be added to the list.

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