

Brothers, Sheila C.

From: UK University Senate <UK-UNIV-SENATE@LSV.UKY.EDU> on behalf of Cramer, Aaron M. <aaron.cramer@UKY.EDU>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 9:03 AM
To: UK-UNIV-SENATE@LSV.UKY.EDU
Subject: University Senate August Newsletter



Dear Colleagues,

As the Fall 2021 semester draws near, we stand at the threshold of another year. Many of us anticipated that this year would be markedly better than the last. At the same time, many were afraid that low vaccination rates and the emergence of variants would result in a prolonged threat to the health of our community. The juxtaposition of these perspectives draws into focus a complex University made of many people, each with their own views, talents, and challenges. Each person adds something irreplaceable to our shared endeavor of teaching, research, and service, not only their individual work in these areas but also their voice in how we engage in this shared pursuit. In different ways for each of us, the past year and a half has been extraordinarily difficult both professionally and personally. I want you to know that all of your colleagues appreciate how hard you have worked to inject any semblance of normalcy into our homes, offices, classrooms, and laboratories.

We are presented with simple propositions, the truths of which are impossible to deny. For example, who among us would deny the benefits of a vibrant residential campus experience? The proposition is so simple, but it obscures a complex reality; the myriad activities and responsibilities that come with the start of every new semester are now challenged by a pandemic that still rages. We live in a time of uneven vaccination rates, evidence that one's vaccination does not protect one's loved ones, and record numbers of break-through infections and hospitalizations. A complex situation requires subtlety in our words and actions. As educators, when we react simply to a complex reality, we do not exemplify the skills and abilities that we teach and expect our students to demonstrate. We want their educations to transform them into critical thinkers and competent citizens who can develop and debate complex solutions for the difficult challenges of tomorrow. This work is always difficult and has recently seemed almost impossible. Yet, we still do what we do best. It is important to me that you know how much I value the work that you do. I appreciate the struggles you manage, and I respect the sacrifices you are making still today, both at home and at work.

The pandemic will continue to present us with obstacles, and I hope that you and your students, colleagues, and families remain safe. As we start this semester, I trust that you will take a moment to reflect on the sacred nature of our work together, as well as your achievements this past year, no matter how small or how large. I look forward to continuing to work with you to form a University that is worthy of both its employees and the students who are entrusted to us.

Aaron



Aaron Cramer

Chair, University Senate Council
Kentucky Utilities Professor of Electrical
and Computer Engineering
aaron.cramer@uky.edu

New Syllabi Requirements

Effective Fall 2021, the University Senate requires instructors to address a variety of items/situations in every syllabus.

- Syllabi must include a series of [routine items](#), such as course prefix and number, list of activities/exams, grading scale, and required materials.
- Syllabi must include [University-wide academic policies that are applicable to all courses](#), such as excused absences, acceptable excuses, make-up work, and accommodations due to disability. Instructors must copy and paste the narrative from the webpage into a syllabus or include the URL in a syllabus.
- Syllabi must describe applicable policies related to academic offenses. Instructors in undergraduate and graduate courses must copy and paste the narrative from the [Senate-maintained page](#) or include the URL in a syllabus. (There is no Senate-maintained URL for courses at the 800- and 900-level but the policy still applies.)
- Syllabi must include a faculty body-approved statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Senate Council approved a [DEI statement](#) in 2021 but instructors can link to any faculty-approved DEI statement.

For more information, including a link to student resources, optional components of a syllabus, and a template, visit [Course Syllabi](#).

Temporary Delegation of Distance-Learning Curricular Approval

For the Fall 2021 semester only and only for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Senate Council Chair has delegated authority for temporary distance-learning (DL) curricular approvals to the local educational unit administrator on behalf of the unit faculty. Upon receipt of approval by the unit faculty, the local unit administrator (e.g. chair) must submit to the Senate Council office a declaration of the course(s) that unit faculty have temporarily approved for DL delivery for Fall 2021. While this Senate decision delegates the curricular approval to the local educational unit, the Provost has instituted and is responsible for a process to determine whether such flexibility will be administratively granted. The Senate has continuously advocated for instructors to be afforded full and fair consideration.

Visit [Temporary Delegation of DL Approval](#) for more information.

Excused Absences Due to Quarantining

At the [August 16 Senate Council](#) meeting, the Senate Council voted to extend the interpretation that quarantining constitutes an excused absence. Specifically, students shall be excused from required in-person interactions if the student has been directed to self-quarantine by the University (including its app), a medical professional, public health professional, or government official.

Deadlines for Curricular Proposals

December 1, 2021

New degree programs

March 1, 2022

Other proposals requiring committee review

April 12, 2022

Courses, all other program changes, and minors

These deadlines are for proposals to be considered for a Fall 2022 effective date. Visit Senate's webpage for [Curricular Deadlines](#) for additional details.

University Senate Meeting Dates – Fall Semester

September 13, 2021

October 11, 2021

November 8, 2021

December 13, 2021

University Senate meetings are expected to take place in Worsham Cinema in the Gatton Student Center. For guests who cannot attend in person, a YouTube livestream will be provided.

[View Senate Minutes and Agendas](#)

Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter!



facebook.com/UniversitySenate | twitter.com/senate_uk

To unsubscribe from the UK-UNIV-SENATE list, click the following link:
<http://lsv.uky.edu/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=UK-UNIV-SENATE&A=1>