



Dear Colleagues,

I hope your semesters finished smoothly and you will have some time to recover during the next several weeks.

Your efforts over this semester have been nothing short of heroic. The judgment and creativity that our faculty have exercised to provide the best education possible during the most challenging time in our lives and the lives of our students demonstrate what is special about the University.

You have given much of yourselves to achieve this. It may be that your efforts will be downplayed or that your instructional expertise will be second guessed. A careful examination of the reality of the pandemic and the semester we have just experienced does not seem to sustain such views. You have done more to promote the education and success of our students than could possibly have been imagined in these times. At all times, but especially during the pandemic, our faculty are integral to the identity of the University and its value to our students, alumni, employers, and the Commonwealth. The University should be prepared to defend vigorously, internally and externally, the value of our faculty and their contributions during this time.

The final University Senate meeting of 2020 is on Monday. Senate meetings are open meetings, and all are welcome. The agenda and information on how to join is available at <https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/senate/2020-12-14>, and I would encourage you to join if you are able. We have a very busy agenda. Items to be considered include

- Honorary degree recipients and other degree recipients
- New degree and certificate programs and changes
- Changes in admissions and academic standards rules and standards
- Closure of a number of multidisciplinary research centers
- Discussion of the most recent revision of the Senate Rules
- Proposed changes to the academic calendars
- Proposed modifications to the Graduate School policies for admitting international students
- Report from the University Appeals Board

Aaron



Aaron Cramer

Chair, University Senate Council

Kentucky Utilities Associate Professor of Electrical
and Computer Engineering

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Updated Academic Policies in Response to COVID-19

Academic Policies across campus have been amended in response to COVID-19. Please visit the [University Senate Academic Policies in Response to COVID-19](#) webpage for FAQs and the most up-to-date information. Recent updates include:

- Approval of alternative course delivery modes for Winter Intersession 2020/2021, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021.
- Academic Calendars.
- Updated recommended syllabus statements.
- Excused absence policy for Winter Intersession 2020/2021, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Statement

Thank you to the Senate Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (SACDI) and SACDI Chair Cindy Jong for developing a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the [recommended syllabus template on the Senate Council website](#).

The statement begins, “The University of Kentucky is committed to our core values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and human dignity, and a sense of community (Governing Regulations XIV). We acknowledge and respect the seen and unseen diverse identities and experiences of all members of the university community.” You are encouraged to read the [full statement](#) and consider using in your syllabi.

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>.

Let’s Make A Difference: A Campus Partnership Initiative 2021 UK Facilities Management

Do you know of a public space that needs a transformation? Tell us!

1. Take two to five photos or record a two-minute video of the area you would like improved.
2. Explain how proposed project will make a difference at UK.
3. Submit to: lets.make.a.difference@l.uky.edu

Deadline: January 15, 2021

[Click here for more information and rules.](#)

Winning Entries Funded by UK Facilities Management

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.

Fall Semester Senate Meeting Dates

December 14, 2020

All meetings via video conference
from 3:00-5:00

[View Senate Minutes and Agendas](#)



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