



Dear Colleagues,

Another semester is underway, and it is a time of uncertainty. There are signs of hope, but there are also hints of longer darkness. These various indications, including the development of effective vaccines, doubts about vaccine availability, recent news about declining case counts, case counts that remain stubbornly high relative to earlier times, and emergence of disruptive variants, evoke different responses from different members of our community. People react according to their values, beliefs, and perspectives. One of the fundamental features of our shared governance system is that there is not a single source of values, goals, and policies. We much engage in the difficult work of struggling together, talking, debating, and negotiating to develop a shared understanding of our common values. This process is messy, but we cannot hope to be who we are to the people who depend on us without engaging in it.

Recently, it was announced that the Provost David Blackwell will be stepping down from his role. Given our institution's core mission of education, of teaching, research, and service, and given that the Provost is the chief academic officer of the institution, this is a moment where faculty must intentionally engage in the process of crafting our shared values. The Provost is administratively responsible for the activities of the faculty, for the attainment of our mission. As such, the Provost, after the President, is the most important administrator in our University. We must express our thoughts, goals, and desires for the future of the institution at this time. The President is engaged in a listening tour to help him formulate his approach to hiring a Provost, and there will be a search process. We all must use the opportunities that we have to express our thoughts and those of our colleagues on the institution and the role of the Provost within it, whether that is within our departments and colleges, in open forums, or through our elected representatives in [University Senate](#) or its executive body, the [Senate Council](#).

If you are available, I invite you to the February meeting of the University Senate. The Senate is meeting on Monday, February 8 at 3:00, and you can find the agenda and information for joining at <https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/senate/2021-02-08>. The meeting is an open meeting, and all are welcome. There will be various informational presentations, including from the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday about the University's budget. There are also some curricular proposals involving academic programs and some academic policy proposals relating to the academic calendar, course syllabi, and Dead Week.



Aaron Cramer

Chair, University Senate Council

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University Committee Nominations for 2021-2022

Robust faculty participation in University committee work ensures the continued success of shared governance at the University of Kentucky. Please consider nominating yourself or a faculty colleague for membership on one of the [committees listed here](#).

Please send nominations to Sheila Brothers (sbrothers@uky.edu) by **Wednesday, February 17**, and indicate the committee for which you think the nominee would be a

good fit. When sending your nomination, it would be helpful to know if the individual being nominated is interested in serving, if chosen.

Spring Semester Senate Meeting Dates

February 8, 2021

March 8, 2021

April 12, 2021

May 3, 2021

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

[View Senate Minutes and Agendas](#)

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 Spring and Summer 2021.
 - Academic Calendars.
 - Updated recommended syllabus statements.
 - Excused absence policy for Spring 2021 and Summer 2021.
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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.

Fall Semester Senate Meeting Dates

December 14, 2020

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

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