



Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well as we approach the midpoint of the semester. While the recent weather has created difficulties, I always appreciate the lengthening days and warming temperatures. It is also the season for Senate elections, and elections are currently or will soon be underway in many of your colleges. I wanted to take some time to discuss the Senate, what it does, and how it works to help inform your decisions.

The University Senate is responsible for determining the broad academic policies of the University. It is also responsible for making decisions on curricula, courses, and programs and for establishing the academic calendar. It determines conditions for admission and graduation and recommends to the Board of Trustees all candidates that have been approved for degrees. It serves as a source of advice on administrative matters related to education and faculty employment and generally serves as a communication channel between the administration and the faculty, a function in which it has been particularly active during the pandemic. It is composed of elected faculty senators from the colleges as well as elected student senators and ex-officio senators.

Elected faculty senators represent you and your colleagues in the Senate and its committees. Specifically, they are expected to:

- Attend meetings of the Senate.
- Review all agenda items in advance of the meeting.
- Be mindful of the ramifications of Senate actions on their departments and colleges.
- Serve on at least one Senate committee.

When you are considering your votes for senators, consider how important this role is and vote for someone you think will exercise it carefully and be accountable to you and your colleagues. And say thank you to any of your colleagues that stand for election. This is hard and sometimes thankless work. The special role of faculty in the governance of a university is one of the key features that make a university different than other forms of enterprise and an inseparable part of the value of the institution to our students and the Commonwealth.

The Senate is meeting Monday at 3:00 pm. The agenda and information about joining the meeting can be found at <https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/senate/2021-03-08>. The Senate's business includes consideration of a number of new academic programs, changes to the Senate Rules relating to academic suspension and reinstatement, approval of a new Race and Ethnicity college requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences, extension of the test-optional admissions pilot, and discussion of the changes to undergraduate research. It is an open meeting, and all are welcome.



Aaron Cramer

Chair, University Senate Council

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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](#).

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>

UK Libraries Accepting Proposals for the 2021 Alternative Textbook Grant Program

Applications are accepted through **March 31, 2021**. The Senate Library Committee will evaluate the proposals and grant funding will be awarded in early summer of 2021. Details about the program are available [here](#).

Spring Semester Senate Meeting Dates

March 8, 2021

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 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.

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