



## FACULTY SENATE

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TO: Ann Bain, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
FROM: Faculty Senate  
DATE: November 17, 2020  
CC: Chancellor Christy Drale  
SUBJ: FSM-2020-09 Resolution to extend the COVID-19 Revision (FSM\_2020\_07) of UA Little Rock policies 404.4 (Attendance and Withdrawal Policy) and 404.8 (Syllabus Policy)

As a result of the continued, increasing rate of the spread of COVID-19 in the state, it is probable that a student who is registered for a face-to-face class will find that they cannot attend because they are at risk, live with someone at risk, are symptomatic and/or quarantined as a result of exposure to COVID-19. In July, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, working on behalf of the senate, passed a resolution to temporarily modify the Attendance and Withdrawal Policy (404.4) and the Syllabus Policy (404.8) in order to minimize circumstances when students may feel compelled to come to campus when they are not well during the Fall 2020 semester. We expect the threat to the health of faculty, staff, and students to continue through Spring and possibly into Summer 2021. Therefore, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate voted on and passed a modification of the resolution presented in FSM\_2020\_07 to extend through Summer 2021.

This resolution requires faculty to re-define “attendance” and “participation” in a course beyond a student sitting in a classroom. Furthermore, the student must be informed as to how they will have access to the class instruction/materials and how they will be able to participate remotely so that they do not fall behind. This reflects the recommendation from UA System President Bobbitt to create flexible attendance policies to meet the needs of our students during this time. The revised resolution regarding face to face instruction through Summer 2021 reads:

**“Be it resolved that** instructors who are teaching a Spring 2021 or Summer 2021 course that requires an on campus component must include an addendum to their attendance policy stated in a course syllabus providing for the possibility that a student cannot physically attend class. Students must know ahead of time how to access the course instruction and materials if they are unable to attend in person. Furthermore, if unable to come to campus, students must be able to participate remotely without penalty or fear of being dropped from the course due to non-attendance. Finally, instructors must include instructions to the students about what happens in the event that the instructor must be quarantined and unable to meet in person. This modification extends through Summer 2021.”