



FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda
March 19, 2021
1:00 PM until adjournment
Synchronous Online

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Review of Minutes from February 26, 2021
- III. Announcements
- IV. Airing of Grievances (2 minute limit)
- V. Introduction of New Topics (2 minute limit)
- VI. Reports
 - A. Executive Committee - Amanda Nolen, President of Faculty Senate
 - B. Chancellor's Report – Christy Drale, Chancellor
 - C. Provost's Report – Ann Bain, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor
 - D. Undergraduate Council - Joe Felan, Chair
 - E. Graduate Council - Laura Ruhl, Chair
 - F. Core Council - Belinda Blevins-Knabe, Chair
 - G. Student Government (SGA) and Graduate Student (GSA) Associations - Landon DeKay and Natalie Snow
 - H. Planning & Finance – Andrew Wright

- VII. Old Business
 - A. Motion FS_2021_04** Faculty Governance Committee (Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two meetings of the Faculty Senate - second vote verbatim to the first vote, no second required, second vote.) Modify Article III of the University Assembly to change AIGC committee member terms of service.

Be it resolved to amend Article III of the Constitution of the University Assembly as follows (underline indicates addition, strikethrough indicates deletion)

Appointed Committees

Academic Integrity and Grievance Committee: The Academic Integrity and Grievance Committee hears specific grade appeals and hears, on appeal and referral, cases involving certain academic offenses. The Academic Integrity and Grievance Committee comprises fifteen (15) faculty and three (3) faculty alternates to be appointed ~~each May annually in the spring~~ by the Committee on Committees of the Assembly and seventeen (17) students and three (3) student alternates to be appointed ~~each May~~ no later than the beginning of the fall semester. Twelve (12) voting and two (2) alternate undergraduate students will be appointed by the Student Government Association and five (5) voting and one (1) alternate graduate students will be appointed by the Graduate Student Association. Appointed faculty members shall serve three-year staggered terms and students shall serve one-year terms and may be reappointed. ~~The term of office begins with the fall semester, and continues for twelve months.~~

Be it further resolved, that if approved, these modifications will be effective July 1, 2021.

Commentary: The issue of staggered terms for AIGC was initially proposed by that committee in April 2019 and subsequently referred to the Faculty Governance committee for review and recommendation. The Governance committee is proposing three-year, staggered terms for faculty inasmuch as a period of training is required and experience is valuable. Additionally, appointed committees commonly have staggered terms in order to insure some level of continuity in committee understanding of responsibilities from year to year.

VIII. New Business

A. FS_2021_05 Academic Transfer of Credit Committee (Legislation. Majority vote at one meeting, no second required.) First time Freshman Admission Requirements

Be it resolved to revise First-time Freshman Admission Requirements (Policy 502.3; Rev. 4/40) to include language allowing equivalent placement exam scores to be considered for admission and placement decisions in lieu of ACT scores as indicated in Attachment A (strikethrough indicates deletion; underline indicates addition); and

Be it further resolved that if approved this will go into effect retroactively July 1, 2021.

B. FS_2021_02 Executive Committee (Legislation. Majority vote at one meeting, no second required.) COVID-19 Use of Student Evaluations of Courses from Calendar Year 2020 Towards Annual Review, Promotion, Tenure, and Awards.

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has created a sustained disruption in the learning environment,

Be it resolved that student evaluations of teaching generated during the 2020 calendar year may not adversely affect a faculty member's evaluation of teaching for annual review, promotion, tenure, or awards [1], and

~~**Be it resolved** that the faculty member may include data from their teaching evaluations in their own report; and~~

Be it further resolved that specifically these evaluations carry a clear notation of “COVID-19 Pandemic” for future reference.

¹This resolution pertains only to student evaluations of courses and not to other concerns listed in Board Policy 405.1 related to dismissal for cause nor does this resolution negate the requirement that course evaluation data be included in faculty annual reports.

Commentary: The implications of the disruption to course delivery including moving pedagogy online raises significant concerns about student evaluations of courses and instructors. These evaluations are used for annual review, promotion, tenure, and awards, thus can have long term implications to the career of a faculty member. Faculty were evaluated for classes and instructional activities that were substantially different than what they planned and under conditions over which they had little control. Students experienced challenges with access to technology, distracting learning conditions, financial difficulties, and health concerns all of which likely have a negative effect on course ratings. Neither the course evaluation instruments nor the administration of those instruments were adjusted to reflect the changing and often unpredictable conditions thus bringing into question the internal validity of this exercise.

C. FS_2021_06 Executive Committee (Recommendation. Majority vote at one meeting; no second required). Inclement Weather Policy

Be it resolved to recommend modifications to the Inclement Weather Policy as it pertains to instruction as indicated in Attachment B (strikethrough indicates deletion; underline indicates addition).

D. FS_2021_07 Executive Committee (Legislation. Majority vote at one meeting; no second required). Syllabus Policy

Be it resolved to amend the Syllabus Policy (404.8; Rev. 8/2018, 9/2011) to include directions to students about whether and how a class will continue to meet in the event the campus experiences a closure or delayed start. Attachment C (underline indicates addition; strikethrough indicates deletion); and

Be it resolved that if the name of the Policy 215.1 Inclement Weather is changed, the change will be reflected in the Syllabus Policy; and

Be it further resolved that if approved, changes to this policy will go into effect July 1, 2021.

- IX. Open Forum
- X. Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A: Policy 502.3 First-time Freshman Admissions Policy

Admission of First-time Entering Freshmen

Applicants who present a high school diploma with all the following academic qualifications will receive admission:

- Completion of the high school Core Curriculum for college preparation as required by Arkansas Code Annotated §§6-60-208 and 6-61-217 and defined by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board in consultation with the Arkansas State Board of Education[1]. And either
 - A cumulative high school grade-point average of 2.25 on a 4.0 scale, and ACT English, Math and Reading sub-scores of 15 or higher (minimum SAT sub-scores of 26 Writing, 26 Reading, and 515 Math), or equivalent score on comparable placement exams, or
 - Satisfaction of the ACT requirement of the Arkansas Academic Challenge for traditional students as set forth by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

Students who receive a GED or are graduates of home schooling are admitted if they have ACT sub-scores in English, Math and Reading of 15 or higher.

Students age 24 or older with a cumulative high school grade-point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and who have completed all appropriate placement exams will receive admission.

Students using 6th semester transcripts will be admitted with the expectation of continued academic success in high school. Preference for housing will be given based on the date of admission.

Admission of Freshmen Transfer Students

Freshmen Transfer Students are students with fewer than 12 acceptable transfer credits from another college or university. These students will be admitted if they meet the admission standards for first-time entering freshmen.

Students who do not meet our admission requirements are encouraged to apply and will be reviewed for possible admission. Any applicant whose admission is denied or deferred may, with the submission of additional information, request reconsideration.

[1] This requirement applies to students graduating from high school after May 1, 2002.

ATTACHMENT B: Policy 215.1 Inclement Weather (Inclement) and Other Campus Closures

Policy:

1. ~~During inclement weather, UA Little Rock will make a decision whether or not to close or delay opening the campus based on all available information.~~
1. 2. During inclement weather and other disruptions, the chancellor will decide, based on all available information, whether or not conditions warrant canceling classes and activities and closing or delaying the opening of the campus, or whether classes and activities will be canceled but with specified campus offices open.
2. In the event of campus closure or delayed start, affected courses may continue Online or web-enhanced classes will continue as scheduled at the discretion and direction of the course instructor faculty member. In this event, courses will be following a “Virtual Protocol” indicating they would switch to an alternate modality, means or method. The Virtual Protocol will be defined for each course by the instructor in the course syllabus (Policy 404.8).
3. The UA Little Rock website, UA Little Rock email, the university’s main telephone number (501-916-3000), and the Rave campus alert notification system are the official means of communicating information concerning weather-related closings.
4. When necessary, the university will announce a separate decision about canceling night activities outside of business hours classes (those classes starting at 4:20 p.m. or later) by 2 p.m., if possible.
5. Ordinarily, sites remote from campus such as the Bowen Law School and the Arkansas Studies Institute will close or cancel ~~classes and~~ activities whenever the university does so. In some circumstances, however, a separate decision may be made whether or not a site remote from campus will be open or closed, and this decision will be announced through the university’s official means of communicating weather-related closings.
6. Vice chancellors are responsible for seeing that necessary services are provided in their respective areas when the university is closed. Employees required to provide such services will be identified by their supervisors. Classified employees who must report to work when the university is closed due to inclement weather will be allowed compensation time of 1.5 hours for one hour worked. Persons who are not required to work when the university is closed will be granted authorized absence. Employees who do not report to work when the campus is open will be charged annual/compensatory leave or leave without pay. The Payroll Department will prescribe payroll reporting and timekeeping.
7. The Policy Advisory Council of the University Assembly will recommend to the chancellor if and when missed undergraduate and graduate class days should be made up. In the event that the university is closed during a final examination day, the provost, in consultation with the Faculty Senate president, will reschedule any missed graduate or undergraduate final examinations with the exception of online exams which will continue as scheduled.
8. Weather and road conditions vary from place to place. Employees and students are expected to exercise good judgment regarding the safety of travel when road conditions are affected by the weather.

ATTACHMENT C: Policy 404.8 - Syllabus, Office Hours, and Regular and Substantive Contact Policy

Every approved course must have a concise statement outlining the main points of study and the procedures used in the course. This statement must be delivered to the student at the beginning of the course, no later than the end of the schedule adjustment period. Changes during the operation of the course must be communicated to the students in a timely manner. A multi-page syllabus must include page numbers.

This statement must contain the following:

1. The university-approved course prefix, number, course description, and prerequisites.
2. The university-approved disability statement (see Faculty Senate legislation, FS_2011-12_01, 9/23/2011) with current contact information for the Disability Resource Center.

“Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to have a disability documented) and need an accommodation, please contact me privately as soon as possible, so that we can discuss with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) how to meet your specific needs and the requirements of the course. The DRC offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process among you, your instructor(s) and the DRC. Thus, if you have a disability, please contact me and/or the DRC at ~~501-569-916-3143 (V/TTY)~~ or ~~501-683-7629-246-82964 (VP)~~. For more information, please visit the DRC website at www.ualr.edu/disability.”

3. The university-approved inclement weather policy (215.1)-including course instructor directions to the students about whether and how the class will continue to meet via an alternate modality, means or method if the campus experiences a closure or delayed start. These directions are referred to as the “Virtual Protocol.”
4. An academic integrity statement.
5. The program-approved, measurable course learning objectives as required by the Credit Hour Policy (see 404.11). There must be at least one course objective.
6. Any deviations from the Standard Credit Hour (see Credit Hour Policy, 404.11)
7. The instructor-approved required materials, such as textbook and technologies needed to participate in the course.
8. The instructor’s attendance policy (see Attendance and Withdrawal Policy, 404.4)
9. The instructor’s grading policy, which must describe how the final grade will be determined and what course assignments (e.g., exams, homework, artifacts, projects) will be required.
10. The instructor’s late/make-up policy.

11. The instructor's statement on Regular and Substantive Contact, which is a clear statement explaining the following:

a. Office Hours: The method(s) and scheduled time(s) the instructor will use to be available for student-initiated contact (for example, virtual office hour meetings, message/email, phone call, chat, meeting in person, a combination of several, or other) during business hours, as well as an expectation for method of contact outside of business hours (i.e., weekends and holidays);

b. Instructor Presence: The expected regularity of instructor-to-student interaction and how it is distributed throughout the term (this will vary based on type of course, modality, length of course term, and specific course activities). If there is a need for interruption of interaction for an extended time period, the instructor should announce this interruption to the class.

The Instructor may include additional information beyond these required items.

Citation and Modification

This policy must be cited in any curricular documents that excerpt it (such as the Undergraduate Catalog), and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (or their designee) should review those documents before they are finalized. Wherever there is a substantive conflict between the document which quotes this policy and this policy, this policy shall be followed.

The policy can be modified through legislative action of the Faculty Senate (see Article III of the Constitution of the Assembly of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock).

Unless otherwise specified in the legislation, changes to this policy take effect in the Fall semester of the nine-month academic year subsequent to the approval of the legislation.