

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

TRANSMITTAL OF FACULTY SENATE LEGISLATION

Faculty Senate legislation is to be submitted to the chancellor to approve or disapprove within ten calendar days after the Assembly review period. The chancellor may approve or disapprove any Faculty Senate legislation within a period from the eleventh through the twenty-fifth calendar day after the Faculty Senate action has been presented to the Assembly, unless the Assembly has been petitioned to amend or rescind the Faculty Senate legislation. In the latter case, the chancellor's approval or disapproval shall be made no later than fifteen calendar days after the Assembly has voted on and failed to approve a motion to amend or rescind a legislative action of the Faculty Senate. The chancellor shall provide written reasons for disapproval to the Faculty Senate.

To the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock:

The following legislation passed the UALR Faculty Senate on March 19, 2021.

FS_2021_02 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.

Disseminated to University Assembly March 19, 2021

Faculty Senate President's Signature *Amanda Nolen* Date March 19, 2021
Amanda Nolen

Received in chancellor's office on APR 06 2021 (date)

Chancellor's Action:
APPROVED Chancellor's Signature *Christina Drale* Date 4/8/2021
Christina Drale

DISAPPROVED Chancellor's Signature _____ Date _____
(reasons to be attached) Christina Drale