

Senate Council Actions Taken on Behalf of Senate in Spring 2020

Background: *Senate Rules 1.1.1.3* (“Authority to Waive University Senate Rules”) describes the circumstances under which the Senate Council (SC) may waive a *Senate Rule (SR)*. This rule also states that all waivers must be reported to the Senate at its next meeting.

The items listed below were approved by SC in spring 2020 on behalf of Senate, in response to the COVID pandemic. The Senate Council held specially called, Senate-type meetings in April and May (instead of Senate meetings) to facilitate the business of the Senate. The items below were reported during those April and May SC meetings, to which all senators were invited. However, these items are now being reported to an official Senate meeting in accordance with *SR 1.1.1.3*.

Reported at specially called SC meeting on April 13, 2020:

- Changed last day to withdraw from classes to May 1.
- Changed last day to change to pass/fail grading to May 1.
- SC discussed the issue of P/F and if programs should be required to accept P/F grading. SC opted to take no formal action on whether programs would have to accept P/F grading for required courses and decided to defer that issue to each program’s faculty of record. There was a strong desire at SC to maintain Senate’s current model of expecting faculties of record to make informed decisions about their own programs. At the Provost’s request, SC subsequently discussed the possibility of requiring all programs to accept P/F grading and ultimately voted to require that all programs accepted P/F grading for spring 2020.
- SC waived the portion of *SR 5.1.4* (“Courses Taken on a Pass/Fail Basis”) that prohibits use of P/F grading for freshmen.
- Waived the portion of *SR 5.1.4* (“Courses Taken on a Pass/Fail Basis”) that prohibits use of P/F grading for students on academic probation.
- Decided that no courses taken during spring 2020 count towards the lifetime maximum of four P/F courses for undergraduates.
- Clarified that instructors are authorized to change their syllabi due to the COVID-19 situation and must communicate any changes to students as quickly as possible.
- Suggested the Chair communicate to instructors that they be as flexible as possible with students during spring 2020.
- Recommended against requiring doctor’s notes for absences related to illness.
- On March 23, the SC discussed the issue of allowing UK Core courses to be taken as pass/fail, but wanted input from Senate’s UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC). SUKCEC subsequently voted to allow UK Core courses to be taken pass/fail for spring 2020 and SC did not take any further action regarding this issue.
- On March 30, on behalf of Senate, the SC approved proposed changes to *Senate Rules 5.2.4.2.3.1* (“Excused Absences”) regarding short-term absences for members of the military and the KY National Guard. The Veterans Resource Center will now be the point of contact for students in the military who are called to serve. Also on March 30, the SC reviewed some program-specific changes, described below.
 - Approved changes to the PharmD program for class of 2021. The approved proposal dropped the number of required clinical rotations for affected students from 7 to 6 total credit hours after changing is still above minimum required by accrediting agencies.
- Approved changes to the JD program courses for spring 2020.
 - Pass/fail grading made mandatory for all Law students in spring 2020.
- Proposed changes to 2019-20 academic calendar related to the Graduate School.

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- Pushed back by about a week the last day to sit for a final exam, last day to submit thesis, and last day to submit final (edited) thesis.
- Approved a nonstandard calendar for AT 642 (not COVID-related).
- Approved modifications to Graduate School policies for international students for fall 2020 admissions (current recruiting cycle).
 - Accepting Duolingo scores in addition to TOEFL/IELTS.
 - Changed deadline for submitting applications from (was) March 15 to at least the end of the spring 2020 semester.
- Approved one-time change to PharmD to allow students to opt for pass/fail grading for all courses in spring 2020.
- Approved one-time change to DMD to allow students to opt for pass/fail grading in DMD courses in spring 2020.
- At the request of Associate Provost for Enrollment Management Christine Harper, waived certain aspects of *SR 4.2.1* ("Admission Requirements").
 - Temporarily accept self-reported GPA and courses taken (Undergraduate Admissions to verify self-reported data later).
 - Temporarily automatically admit students with 3.00 weighted GPA without an SAT or ACT test score.

Reported at specially called SC meeting on May 4, 2020:

- Per the request of Interim Graduate School Dean Brian Jackson, SC discussed allowing international postbaccalaureate students to enroll in online courses. It was determined that although it was not traditionally done, there was no rule (SRs or Graduate School Bulletin) preventing it.
- The SC discussed allowing new certificate programs to be effective for the spring semester. SC members concurred that it would be feasible to offer spring effective dates for these types of proposals.
- SC endorsed Kaveh Tagavi (EN) for a second year-long term as the Academic Ombud.
- There was discussion about probation and suspension for the spring 2020 semester. SC on behalf of Senate voted to allow the dean or the dean's designee discretion for the spring 2020 semester regarding placing students on probation or suspension for all programs, both undergraduate and graduate, at UK.
- Approval of a one-time change to the College of Dentistry calendar by adding an additional graduation date (June 26th). The additional date gives students who are planning to graduate the time to complete clinical requirements and still graduate before fall.
- Approval of a one-time change to Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) to decrease required credit hours from 139 to 130.
- Endorsement of a summer 2020 pilot program for badges.