

Subject: [Test]:University Senate Message on President's Draft Proposal

Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 at 11:45:37 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: DeShana Collett

To: Collett, DeShana

Web Version



Dear Campus Faculty,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to you today with a deep sense of disappointment. Recent developments have unveiled a disturbing proposal that could drastically affect the distribution of authority within our institution, jeopardizing the crucial role of faculty, staff, and students in decision-making processes.

As a brief overview, the University Senate, which includes students and administrative staff members with voting privileges, historically holds a crucial role in approving the academic calendar, admissions, and ensuring the academic quality of degree program proposals. This authority is delegated from the Board of Trustees, which ultimately holds the highest authority and intervenes when necessary.

However, recent proposals seem to undermine this well-established system of shared governance. The new proposal appears to centralize authority, stripping away the voice and influence of those who have long been the bedrock of our university's success. This move not only undermines the principles of shared governance but also threatens the academic integrity and autonomy that we have worked tirelessly to uphold.

Moreover, it is disheartening to note that the concerns voiced by faculty members seem to have been disregarded. Despite the President's apparent acknowledgment of our concerns at the March Senate meeting and the college listening sessions, it appears that the proposed changes continue unabated. As he has said many times, no votes equal no voices, the proposal allows you to be in the room, maybe even gives you a seat at the table, but you are essentially invisible. His disregard for the input of faculty members suggests a troubling departure from the collaborative spirit that has characterized our institution. (Inside Higher Ed Article)

It is important to recognize that many of us are deeply troubled by these developments. Some faculty and staff members have even raised the possibility of a no-confidence resolution against both the President and the Board of Trustees. While such measures are significant and require careful consideration, they underscore the gravity of the situation at hand.

Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to shared governance and academic freedom, ensuring that the future of our university is guided by principles of inclusivity, transparency, and mutual respect. I implore you to join me in voicing opposition to these encroachments on our academic autonomy and to demand accountability from our university leadership.

Sincerely,
DeShana



DeShana Collett, Ph.D., PA-C

She/Her/Hers (What's this?)

Chair [University Senate Council](#) and Professor

[University of Kentucky College of Health Sciences](#)

[Department of Physician Assistant Studies](#)

900 South Limestone Street, CTW Building Ste 205G

Lexington, Kentucky 40536

859-218-0845

dcollettpac@uky.edu

Confidentiality Statement

This e-mail transmission and any files that accompany it may contain sensitive information belonging to the sender. The data is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.



An Equal Opportunity University

This email was sent by: University of Kentucky
410 Administration Drive, Lexington, KY, 40506

[Update Preferences](#) [Privacy Policy](#)