

A resolution supporting the Proposal for a Policy on the Provision of Syllabi and Course Information to Students in Time for Registration passed by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Faculty Council.

Presented on the 20th of June 2019

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WHEREAS, Students face a significant problem with the lack of information they have access to prior to registering for courses; **AND**

WHEREAS, The only information students have available to them at the time of registration is the short single-sentence course description provided on the course registration page;¹ **AND**

WHEREAS, As a result of this lack of pre-registration course information, students are unaware of the workload and rigor demanded of the courses they register for;² **AND**

WHEREAS, This causes students to overload their schedules by taking courses with conflicting exam dates and overlapping due dates for papers, projects, and assignments; **AND**

WHEREAS, Such schedule overloading can potentially lead to reduced course pass rates along with early student burnout and disengagement; **AND**

WHEREAS, This lack of pre-registration course information leads to classes filling up faster as students register for “backup” courses in order to meet certain course-load statuses, thus preventing other students from registering for the courses they need to take in order to stay on track for graduation;³ **AND**

WHEREAS, the course information gap upon registration creates an especially significant burden on new students and transfer students who lack strong relationships with their advisors or other peers on campus who could provide them with greater insight during the course selection process; **AND**

¹ *A Proposal for Course Information Accessibility* by the Wayne State University Student Senate.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

WHEREAS, In order to bridge this information gap, such students often rely on highly misleading and counterproductive *RateMyProfessor* reviews to determine their course selections; **AND**

WHEREAS, Upon receipt of the course syllabus on the first day of classes, students often drop one or more courses in bulk within the first couple weeks of class, further disrupting the availability of classes, as well as the student-faculty relationship within each class;⁴ **AND**

WHEREAS, This bulk dropping and adding within courses further hinders the success of new student additions as they join new classes late and thus begin the semester already behind schedule and potentially having missed assignments; **AND**

WHEREAS, Many of Wayne State University's peer institutions have developed systems that provide students with access to critical course information, including full syllabi, in databases that are accessible at the point of course registration;⁵ **AND**

WHEREAS, In an effort to address the course information gap at Wayne State University, members of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Faculty Council worked with members of the Student Senate to write the *Proposal for a Policy on the Provision of Syllabi and Course Information to Students in Time for Registration*, which was thereafter passed by the CLAS Faculty Council; **AND**

WHEREAS, The CLAS Faculty Council Proposal called for past and current syllabi to be made available on department websites or on Canvas, on a voluntary basis;⁶ **AND**

WHEREAS, The CLAS Faculty Council Proposal also called for the University to create a tool for WSU students to access an extended description of the course and/or syllabus in the course registration platform. Such description will include: a brief course description, expected textbook(s), approximate due dates for assignments and tests, and the grade distribution. This information will only be accessible to those with access to the course registration page;⁷ **AND**

WHEREAS, The implementation of the CLAS Faculty Council Proposal would lead to students having access to more information about courses which they can use to make more informed decisions in the course registration process; **AND**

⁴ *A Proposal for Course Information Accessibility* by the Wayne State University Student Senate.

⁵ Student Senate "Syllabi Database - Peer Institutions" internal research spreadsheet

⁶ CLAS Faculty Council *Proposal for a Policy on the Provision of Syllabi and Course Information to Students in Time for Registration*.

⁷ Ibid.

WHEREAS, The implementation of the CLAS Faculty Council Proposal should lead to a reduction in the rapid drop and re-add rates for courses within the first two weeks of classes; **AND**

WHEREAS, The implementation of the CLAS Faculty Council Proposal should lead to clearer forecasts for class sizes as students no longer register for “backup” courses, thus assisting departments in more efficiently planning the classes which they will be offering in a given semester; **AND**

WHEREAS, The implementation of the CLAS Faculty Council Proposal will promote student success by allowing students to more intelligently plot out their long-term degree plans, and proceed to graduation faster.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wayne State University Student Senate wholeheartedly endorses The CLAS Faculty Council *Proposal for a Policy on the Provision of Syllabi and Course Information to Students in Time for Registration* and commends the CLAS Faculty Council for its partnership on this student success initiative; **AND**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wayne State University Student Senate calls on the University to implement the CLAS Faculty Council *Proposal for a Policy on the Provision of Syllabi and Course Information to Students in Time for Registration*; **AND**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the successful implementation of the CLAS Faculty Council *Proposal for a Policy on the Provision of Syllabi and Course Information to Students in Time for Registration*, the Wayne State University Student Senate calls upon the University to consider it’s expansion across the other schools and colleges within the University.

AND FINALLY BE IT ORDERED, that the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this resolution to all relevant outlets, including the University President, the University Provost, the members of the Board of Governors, the President of the Wayne State University Academic Senate, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Chair of the CLAS Faculty Council, and *The South End* student newspaper.

X _____
Stuart Baum
President

X _____
Mazen Zamzam
Vice President