

## **Resolution Expressing Profound Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to the University Senate Responsibility for Educational Policy**

### **WHEREAS,**

- The Board of Trustees has established the University Senate as “a primary educational policy-forming agency of the University,” being entrusted with the oversight of educational policies, and thereby serving a pivotal role in maintaining academic standards and integrity for our students and curricula;
- The Board has further delegated the administrative and educational policy responsibilities of the University to the President and the University Senate, respectively, and instructed the Senate and the President to “reciprocally solicit and utilize the expertise of the other as each makes decisions in their respective areas of policy-making authority. Through these empowering processes of shared governance, the administration, faculty members, staff employees and students all share the responsibility of attainment of the University's goals;”
- The Senate's responsibility in the above clearly prescribed respective shared governance assignments serves as a cornerstone in ensuring effective educational policy formulation through its equitable representation (established by the Board) and democratic voting processes within our academic institution;
- Consulting a few/select faculty members has never been and should never be considered having “consulted the faculty,” especially when they are not allowed to consult back with their constituents;
- A recent presentation by the CR1 Workgroup 5 Responsiveness Committee apparently advocating for the diminution of the Senate's in matters pertaining to educational policy was presented to the Board of Trustees on February 23, 2024;
- The administration’s report advocating for significant changes to the University Senate was presented to the Board of Trustees with virtually no substantive engagement with the University Senate, the Senate Council, or the Chair of the Senate Council.
- Such a diminution poses significant implications and risk for the fundamental principles of academic shared governance roles and threatens the integrity and effectiveness of the Senate's function in ensuring academic standards and quality education for our students;

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, UNIVERSITY SENATE ASSEMBLED:**

- We express our profound concerns regarding the CR1 Workgroup 5 presentation and the proposed changes in CR1;
- We urge the President and the Board of Trustees to uphold the existing, clearly delineated role and responsibility of the Senate in matters concerning educational policy, recognizing the Senate’s indispensable contribution to the maintenance of academic excellence, institutional integrity and accreditation;
- We request, as an equal partner in this process, to actively participate transparently in the formulation of any recommendations related to the Board of Trustees CR 1 resolutions approved on October 20, 2023, and February 23, 2024. Specifically, we request:
  - Access to all internal and external anonymized data and data process/analysis supporting presentations to the Board of Trustees or any committee or subcommittee thereof with respect to these formal recommendations, including those data underlying the CR 1 Workgroup 5 presentation on February 23, 2024; and

- In the spirit of shared governance, further consultation, and timely collaboration with the affected constituents, including Senate Council, during the drafting of all proposed changes and recommendations by any committees or entities; and
  - We believe that the President's engagement in these above shared governance endeavors will provide the collaborative opportunity for the affected University Senate to meaningfully impact recommendations to change University Governing Regulations about the Senate.
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- We direct that our Chair of the Senate, the President of the University of Kentucky, forward a copy of this resolution to the Board of Trustees.

**APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY SENATE COUNCIL, ACTING FOR THE UNIVERSITY  
SENATE ON MARCH ##, 2024**