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## Informational Updates on President Capilouto's Abolition of Senate and Faculty Policy-Making

1 message

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To: "Jones, Davy" <djones@uky.edu>

Tue, Jun 11, 2024 at 9:09 PM

University Faculty Colleagues,

Some informational updates on President Capilouto's action to abolish your elected University Senate and end the decisional control of dept./college faculty/Senate over UK educational policy.

1. Today President Capilouto revealed his final recommendations, only three days before Board of Trustees action on Friday. Until now, the **decisional control** of the **educational policies** for content of a new courses/program changes was controlled by the **college faculty** and then the **University Senate**. I've now 'information and belief' that central administrators were directly asked today on the meaning of the impending Friday action. The central administrators made clear that 'primacy for responsibility' in these new governing documents of individual course instructors in their individual classes **does not mean** 'decisional control by college/university faculty over educational policy on what the educational content will be.'

Q. The words 'primacy' and 'responsibility' are included in these GRs to describe the role of faculty in forming curricula. Is it still true that the faculty have no final decisional authority?

A1. Yes sir, that's right.

A2. Right.

2. New University Senate Council Chair Doug Michael published in the Herald-Leader a frank and candid opinion on President Capilouto's conduct (link below and in part quoted here)

**“Administrative takeover of UK is now complete: a dangerous program by dishonest means. | Opinion** by Douglas Michael

“On Friday, the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees will vote to hand over the keys to President Eli Capilouto, leaving the governance of UK to him and him alone. This will remove any semblance of an effective faculty voice in shared governance. I write to you in my position as the final elected Chair of the University Senate Council, which will be

abolished. I am thus the last person within the University to speak as a representative of all the faculty. The takeover this Friday concerns me. It should concern you, too. You should care because this isn't just quibbling over regulations, this is a president deliberately and deceitfully disenfranchising organized faculty governance for no apparent reason." ....

"It is clear that the President has failed his faculty. Faculty morale is already at an all-time low and still in palpable decline, witness the University Senate's more than two-to-one approval last month of a motion expressing no confidence in our President. In addition, each year the University Senate administers an anonymous survey, evaluating the President's performance in the preceding year. This year's poll was just completed, results will be published Wednesday at <https://universitysenate.uky.edu/facultys-evaluation-president>. Please look fast! After Friday I am sure it will be taken down. More than 800 faculty responding (a record) rate President Capilouto overall much more poorly this year."

Read more at: <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article289180574.html#storylink=cpy>

3. Although President Capilouto committed that process related to faculty promotion and tenure would remain unchanged, the two University Senate committees that hear career-pivotal cases of tenure appeal/faculty dismissal have been removed from the Senate and will be purely administrative committees in oversight and reporting. Previously, a function of the **Senate Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure** was to annually apprise the Senate of promotion/tenure process issues, as well as inform the Senate about issues of faculty academic privilege. **President Capilouto has stricken all functions** to the Senate of the renamed/administratively reporting committee. Hence, while the new 'Faculty Senate' will ostensibly advise the provost on processes of promotion/tenure, the new 'Faculty Senate' will now be starved of the important information on promotion/tenure malfunctioning that the Senate's committee has until now provided the Senate.

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