

**What's the big deal?** Below is a list of important questions with answers as well as a timeline of events.

## Q&A

Q: What changed with the dissolution of the University Senate?

A: Prior to the dissolution, decisional (not advisory) authority over educational policy (e.g., content of new courses/programs) was controlled by college faculty and then the University Senate. Now, faculty have only an advisory role and can no longer make decisions about curriculum and other educational policies. All decisions are made by the Provost. A small (but perhaps not insignificant) fallout from this is the lack of a syllabus template the week before classes began in Fall 2024.

Q: Will the administration listen to the advice of the new Faculty Senate when it is elected?

A: It is possible. In some matters on campus, faculty already only had an advisory role. For example, the area committees for tenure and promotion are only advisory. If this model is used for curricular matters, such that the new Faculty Senate is rarely, if ever, overruled by the Provost, as is typical for tenure and promotion cases, perhaps it is not a problem. However, many faculty who met with the administration during the "listening sessions" of Spring 2024 feel that their advice was not heard. Indeed, the Senate Council provided countless changes, additions, and corrections (including typos) to the new regulations that went unheeded. Also note that search committees at various levels have always been advisory, yet it seemed, most times, the will of the committee was followed. Recent reports of confidentiality agreements for committee members, lack of including sufficient faculty representation on search committees, lack of true participation of faculty members on search committees, and final selection of candidates that did not align with the will of the committee suggest a shift on this campus toward more authoritarian governing styles.

## Timeline

Fall 2023

- The President initiates Project Accelerate, which focuses on five key areas: more educated Kentuckians, more readiness, more partnerships, more employee recruitment and retention, and more responsiveness. Each area had a work group associated with it. The expectation was that each work group would provide a report to the Board of Trustees. Of interest here is work group 5, more responsiveness. Story here: <https://pres.uky.edu/news/efforts-accelerate-university-kentuckys-progress>.
- Interestingly, the Project Accelerate website mentioned in the story is no longer available.

February 23, 2024:

- Workgroup 5 presents at the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees to give their report, including a presentation of information from Deloitte, the consultant charged with exploring our governance structure. Minutes here: <https://www.uky.edu/trustees/sites/www.uky.edu.trustees/files/minutes/Executive%20Committee%20Minutes%20February%202023%2C%202024.pdf>

- CR 1 Resolution Directing the President to Recommend Changes to the Governing Regulations presented at the Board of Trustees meeting later that same date. Minutes here: <https://www.uky.edu/trustees/sites/www.uky.edu.trustees/files/minutes/February%2023%2C%202024%20Board%20Minutes.pdf>.
- Deloitte data was requested by faculty but never produced. The report can be found here: [https://ukyonline.org/index.php/download\\_file/view/21/147/126/](https://ukyonline.org/index.php/download_file/view/21/147/126/).

February 26, 2024

- Senate Council passed a resolution expressing profound concern regarding the proposed changes. The text can be found here: [https://ukyonline.org/index.php/download\\_file/view/18/129/](https://ukyonline.org/index.php/download_file/view/18/129/).

March 11, 2024

- Senate Council asks president to pause review of University Senate restructuring. H-L story here: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/education/article286249570.html>.
- This was the second resolution, the text of which can be read here: [https://ukyonline.org/index.php/download\\_file/view/25/147/126/](https://ukyonline.org/index.php/download_file/view/25/147/126/).

April 26, 2024

- Faculty members (and others) petitioned to speak before the Board of Trustees, some in favor of keeping the University Senate and others not. Minutes here: <https://www.uky.edu/trustees/sites/www.uky.edu.trustees/files/minutes/April%2026%2C%202024%20Board%20Minutes.pdf>
- It was indicated that, should a new Faculty Senate be created, all senators elected during the 2023-2024 academic year would continue in the new body until new protocols for elections could be determined by those faculty.

May 6, 2024

- University Senate votes no confidence in President Eli Capilouto - the first such vote at UK. Kentucky Lantern story here: <https://kentuckylantern.com/2024/05/06/university-of-kentucky-senate-votes-no-confidence-in-president-over-governance-changes/>.
- Video of meeting here: <https://ukyonline.org/index.php/aaup-uk-chapter/aaup-table-contents/university-senate-a-proposal-resolution-no-confidence-president-capilouto/>

May 8, 2024

- Senate Council holds its end of year retreat, much of which involved reviewing the revised GRs and ARs in their near final form.

June 14, 2024

- Board of Trustees votes to dissolve University Senate. Minutes not yet available (to be approved at their next meeting, September 13, 2024). Kentucky Lantern story here: <https://kentuckylantern.com/2024/04/26/university-of-kentucky-board-of-trustees-votes-to-change-governance-model/>.
- The signage on the Senate Council office was removed on the day of the BOT meeting. The University Senate website was erased within minutes of the decision.

- With the dissolution, all University Senate work ceased and faculty senators lost their positions, and a new, provisional faculty body, created from a group of administrator hand-selected nominees (not democratically elected) was created over the summer.

July 8, 2024

- The Kentucky Attorney General determines that the University of Kentucky violated the state's Open Records Act twice when it refused to release public records related to the elimination of the university senate.  
[https://ukyonline.org/files/2217/2048/9216/University\\_of\\_Kentucky\\_broke\\_state\\_public\\_records\\_law\\_twice\\_\\_Lexington\\_Herald\\_Leader.pdf](https://ukyonline.org/files/2217/2048/9216/University_of_Kentucky_broke_state_public_records_law_twice__Lexington_Herald_Leader.pdf)
- In March 2024, the Herald-Leader requested multiple public records from UK after a board meeting in which the university announced it would be examining the role of the university senate as part of an effort called Project Accelerate.

Now

- A staff member from the Senate Council office has been put on administrative leave. The administration claims she deleted the votes from the vote of no confidence. The administration has access to all other votes of previous senators in the Poll Everywhere system. They are looking for these votes and cannot access them because the previous Senate Council chair had them archived. The votes still exist, but the administration cannot access them.
- They have also called the previous Senate Council chair in for questioning, locked her out of her university computer, and are making allegations that she did something wrong with these votes. She is working with lawyers now.
- When asked by the previous Senate Council chair **why** they needed to have access to the secret ballots of the no confidence vote, administrators gave no clear answer.