Resolution to Support Shortening Syllabi by Providing a Link in Canvas for University Policies

WHEREAS the Senate’s Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC), Curriculum & Instruction Committee (CIC) and Policy Committee (PC) members have considered the length and specificity of the current university syllabus template of university policies to be included in every syllabus a concern because students tend to disregard such a long document and therefore miss key information about course assignments, timing and instructional policies; and

WHEREAS it would be helpful to students to find an easy link to the various resources, support offices and university policies on each course’s Canvas site; and

WHEREAS providing information about university resources, support offices, and university policies through the Canvas sites for courses would ensure up-to-date information that is easily available to students and avoid over-reliance on faculty to include updated information when there are frequent changes made to resources, support services and university policies including Student Code of Conduct provisions; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Senate supports the recommendation of the FAC and CIC and PC that the various university policies currently in the university’s suggested syllabus template be removed from the template and that those policies automatically be included in Canvas for every course’s Canvas site.

Passed by the Wayne State University Academic Senate at its plenary on December 6, 2023.