

Faculty Primacy and Academic Freedom in Course Syllabi
Resolution 2009 -12

Whereas, the Academic Senate is the organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters (Title 5, 53200) and is primarily relied upon for curriculum and instruction, for grading policies, for student preparation and success, and for degree and certificate requirements; and Educational Program Development (Board Policy 3255); and

Whereas faculty primacy is essential in the creation of a course syllabus; and the syllabi represents a contract between an individual faculty member and the students enrolled in his/her course; and

Whereas, the creation of an individual faculty member's syllabi falls under the purview of academic freedom; and

Whereas, the Academic Senate acknowledges that course level SLOs/GEOs should be available and transparent to students.

Resolved, the Academic Senate recommends that there not be any administrative mandates (outside of legal requirements) in the creation of course syllabi; and

Resolved, the Academic Senate highly recommends the development of departmental syllabi policies that include all faculty voices; and

Resolved, the Academic Senate recommends that the faculty members of each department determine the appropriate public venue for course-level SLOs/GEOs.

Joan Sholars, Mathematics
Jennifer Galbraith, Mathematics

First Reading: September 3, 2009
Second Reading: September 17, 2009
Approved by AMAC: October 20, 2009