

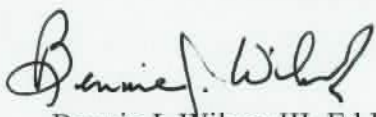
MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 10, 2010
TO: The Faculty Senate
FROM: Academic Policy & Requirements Committee
SUBJECT: Review of University policies regarding required informational items in syllabi

The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate asked the Academic Policy & Requirements Committee to review the informational items required to be included in syllabi, and to investigate whether there might be a better way communicate these items to students.

The Committee reviewed the items listed at Provost's Web site on New Faculty Orientation at <http://provost.utsa.edu/home/orientation/classroom.asp>. The review revealed that:

- The items "strongly encouraged" by the Provost for inclusion in syllabi generally reflect information and policies directly applicable to the academic success of students in their courses.
- The only area of concern appeared to be the result of interpreting the provision that "Students should also be directed to read the UTSA Academic Honor Code" as well as the Roadrunner Creed." The majority of the members believe that these items ought not to be required in syllabi for various reasons, ranging from:
 - They do not directly address course academic requirements.
 - Some students may be uneasy with having to profess an oath, believing this is a private matter outside the academic purview of the University.
- The Provost's policy does not require the verbatim inclusion of the code and creed in syllabi; rather, it states that "the most efficient way to do this is to included the (online) links" in syllabi.
- The consensus of the committee appears to be:
 - Include reference to the code and creed in syllabi in a form at the discretion of individual faculty members.
 - Publish the code and creed in the *Student Information Bulletin*, if not already included.



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Chairman