



Academic Continuity under a declared Emergency in the case of a GTFF strike

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Chair, Academic Council

Background: faculty oversight of curriculum and academic integrity

- 2014 GTFF strike: no faculty involvement in Academic Continuity planning
- The Academic Integrity Task Force (AITF) was formed by Senate legislation on 12/3/14 to respond to the University's Academic Continuity Plan and its infringement on academic integrity and shared governance.
- The 2014 AITF consisted of the chairs of the Committee on Courses (Frances White), the Undergraduate Council (Ron Bramhall) and the Graduate Council (Joe Lowndes).
- See AITF report and recommendations: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/academiccouncil/>

Academic Council reinstatement

- The Academic Integrity Task Force reported that the University lacks clear protocols for engaging the Senate and its committees on academic matters in emergencies
- AITF recommend that during Winter term 2015, the Senate President convene the Academic Council and charge that body with developing, in consultation with Academic Affairs and the President's office, clear protocols for the involvement of the Senate and the relevant Senate committees in campus-wide academic planning and decision-making.
- Academic Council was reinstated (the UO Constitution and Section 6 of the Senate Bylaws establish the Academic Council and its membership)

Academic Council: Senate Councils/committee members (curriculum in blue)

Voting: Chair of	Non-voting and Resource
Academic Requirements Committee	Provost
Committee on Courses	Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Core Ed Council	Senate President
Faculty Personnel Committee	Registrar
Graduate Council	Other resource invitees as needed
Library Committee	
Scholastic Review Committee	
Senate Budget Committee	
Undergraduate Council	

Academic Continuity Plan

- Academic Council developed the Academic Continuity Plan in 2019
https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.uoregon.edu/dist/3/17592/files/2020/05/AcademicContinuity_FINAL_04_03_19.pdf
- Established framework to guide planning and decision-making in the event that a significant disruption to campus operations impedes academic activity (Senate approved US18/19-10 4/24/19)
- **“Once a state of emergency has been declared the Academic Council will be convened to determine, in coordination with designees from the Office of the Provost, an appropriate Academic Continuity Plan, if needed, to manage any associated disruption of academic activity.”**
- The plan also documented the role of Instructors of Record and created Emergency Grades
- Academic Council was asked to develop specific emergency plans for different types of emergencies

First use of the Academic Continuity plan: COVID-19 emergency

- Principle: to hold students harmless while recognizing that students have differing needs during this time – examples:
- Allow students to change to Pass / No Pass in an informed choice so they could switch after knowing grades (this required grades be entered by specific dates) and use of the P* to count as graded credit count towards required 168
- Instructors of Record make determinations on the impact on their classes and adjust delivery to meet learning outcomes
- Required modification to any attendance or participation policies such that attendance is not counted in grades and participation points could be made up or waived.
- Instructors could modify course expectations such that required work is reduced or grading schemes are adjusted provided they can still meet course learning objectives.
- Departments were asked to review and waive requirements for majors and prerequisites, if it makes sense to do so (departments recorded exceptions when this is not a good idea)

Updates on current planning

- Academic Council, as directed, has developed academic continuity plan guidelines that will be voted on in the case of a GTFF strike and an associated declaration of an academic emergency
- Central to this plan is the university policy on Instructors of Record (IoR) <https://provost.uoregon.edu/instructors-record-policy>
- The Academic Continuity Policy is clear that IORs shall retain primary authority, subject to university and unit polices, over how to manage their courses, assignments, instruction, and grades and determines whether learning outcomes have been met and credit should be granted
- The guidelines review what academic changes to impacted courses can be employed by IoRs, and the academic requirements of any replacement IoRs
- Academic Council will consider activated emergency grades if needed

Timeline:

- These guidelines have been voted on by Academic Council and now are for review by the Senate for any feedback that you think Academic Council should consider
- Academic Council will review feedback and decides if and/or how to make changes following feedback. Academic Council decides on the final version
- If an academic emergency is declared (see Academic Continuity Plan for that process), Academic Council will vote to implement the final version as the Continuity Plan for this particular emergency