IRis

Northeastern University

Student Government Association Senate Legislation

Student Government Association

November 06, 2003

SGA Executive Summary: Online Syllabi Requirement

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

Recommended Citation

Student Government Association, Northeastern University, "SGA Executive Summary: Online Syllabi Requirement" (2003). *Student Government Association Senate Legislation.* Paper 148.

This work is available open access, hosted by Northeastern University.

Executive Summary of SR-F-03-101

November 6, 2003

Purpose

The purpose of this legislation is to formally adopt a university wide policy that requires instructors to provide an electronic version of their course syllabi online. This is an essential piece to enriching the academic quality and service extended to students and improving communication efforts between students and faculty.

Background Information

Availability of course syllabi is crucial to ensuring that student's academic rights and responsibilities are understood. Concurrent with efforts to improve the academic quality of the university this addition will be a much-needed element in strengthening communication between faculty and students.

Remaining cognizant of students reliability and frequent usage of technology (specifically blackboard and additional online resources) it is important that academic departments and faculty transition their information online in addition to the distribution of a hard copy of their syllabi. In some instances students whom have misplaced their syllabus are unable to check course requirements or gain access to information critical to completing class requirements. More importantly it will improve the visibility and accessibility of one of the course's most important documents and provide a stable location for students to access.

Additionally, Northeastern currently provides instruction in the online program Blackboard at the Education Technology Center. Blackboard could be a viable online approach to making the syllabi online and training courses educating faculty on usage are readily available. However, faculty should have the flexibility to choose which approach is the most appropriate for online access. The Provosts Office and each respective college are encouraged to assist in assuring that all syllabi are maintained and updated as needed.

Authors

The primary author of this legislation is Peter S. Antonellis, Vice President for Academic Affairs. All members of the Student Government Academic Affairs Committee were instrumental in the drafting of this legislation.