

The Franklin College Faculty Senate wishes to formally object to UGA's local procedures for the posting of course syllabi and instructor CVs, as recently mandated by the USG. Coloring our objections is our unease at the mandate itself: similar mandates in other States have resulted in significant curtailment of academic freedom: the widely publicized, and deeply absurd, prohibition of a text by Plato from a philosophy course in Texas is a prominent recent example.

Our dissatisfaction arises both from the **substantive policies** and from their **implementation**.

UGA's substantive policies go beyond the requirements of the USG mandate in several ways.

First, the [UGA Policy Library](#) on syllabi explicitly requires the inclusion of

Principal course assignments, such as required reading, papers, other activities, and the week of the course in which these assignments are expected to be completed and submitted.

and

Specific course requirements for grading purposes, which may include written and oral tests and reports, research papers, performances or other similar requirements, and/or participation requirements.

None of this is mentioned in the [USG policy](#) itself. In view of the timeline for posting of syllabi— e.g. in April, while faculty are fully immersed in our Spring Semester responsibilities, for courses set to begin in August— these items directly and materially disrupt natural academic workflow. Furthermore their public promulgation invites interference from opportunistic outside political actors, as noted above.

Second, UGA goes well beyond USG policy by requiring that posted instructor CVs be linked to each specific course. Surely a single link on our Department webpage would be enough. In any case that is all that the USG asks.

Finally, for the current Spring Semester of 2026 the USG mandates the posting of syllabi only for “core impacts” courses. The decision to extend

the requirement to all courses right now is inexplicable.

UGA's **implementation** of these policies adds insult to injury. The posting page is based on web technology lifted from decades ago. To load our documents we need to click the semester button separately, then select the department prefix, then elect the course number, then search our files for the documents— not only for each course, but for both the syllabus and the CV for each course. For all of us this is a palpable annoyance. For many of us— mainly teaching faculty, who not only may have four or five different courses to manage, not to mention severe time pressure during their overextended work day— it is infuriating.

The insults do not end there. Despite the insistence that we upload both documents for each course, both CV and Syllabus are listed as “Syllabus” once they are uploaded. This introduces an additional and unnecessary element of uncertainty as we attempt to comply. We are required to post important endmatter on the Honor Code and Emotional Wellness verbatim on each syllabus. Surely this material could be incorporated automatically without making us execute yet another copy-paste. The list could go on.

We treasure the opportunity to teach and to conduct research at UGA. We recognize students' legitimate interest in being informed about the courses they may wish to take in a timely and accurate manner. Our continued hope is that our administration will work to ease the pointless obstacles that lie in the way of this mission, and not increase them.