

RUSA08S

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Sponsor: Academic Affairs Committee

Resolution on Syllabi Availability

Whereas, it is the duty of Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) to promote the interests of Rutgers University students; and

Whereas, it is the duty of the Academic Affairs Committee to represent and promote the academic interests of Rutgers University students; and

Whereas, the University Senate passed a resolution¹ in October 2006 recommending: that course syllabi be available by at least the first class, that departments make course descriptions, including workload information, available via the Course Synopsis System, and that the system by which course descriptions, department links, etc are gathered and made available be made more efficient and kept up to date; and

Whereas, students would be able to save money on textbooks if they had their syllabi before classes begin; and

Whereas, students would be able to better gauge their workload for the semester if course syllabi were available online during registration, or at least before classes begin; and

Whereas, the add/drop period is too short for many students to make such judgments; and

Whereas, course syllabi typically don't change too much from one semester to the next, which means making their availability a reasonable request; and

Be it hereby resolved, that the RUSA reminds faculty and administration of the senate's Report and Recommendations on Availability of Syllabi.

Be it further resolved, that RUSA requests the Office of Scheduling and Space Management and IT Project Governance Committee take the Senate's recommendation into consideration and make syllabi available in the Course Synopsis System.

Be it further resolved, that RUSA strongly encourages Vice President Furmanski and department chairs to require faculty to make syllabi available before classes begin, and encourages faculty to take the initiative on this as well.

Be it finally resolved, that RUSA encourages students to request their syllabi if their instructors do not make them available well before classes begin.

CC: Vice President Furmanski and Department Chairs

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<http://rusa.rutgers.edu>

¹<http://senate.rutgers.edu/icacsyllabiavailability1006.html>