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UNIVERSITY SENATE

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October 2, 2009

Dr. Douglas Roberts
CORE Committee Chair
4308 John S. Toll Physics Building
Campus

Dear Doug,

On behalf of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), I would like to thank you and the 2008-2009 CORE committee for your letter on grading information being included in course syllabi.

Unfortunately, the SEC has voted against charging a committee with this request. Members of the SEC felt that the current syllabus guidelines in the faculty handbook (<http://faculty.umd.edu/teach/syllabus.html>) were appropriate. They were concerned that a syllabus template that is overly prescriptive could hinder a faculty member's discretion to adjust grading according to the abilities of the specific class. While there was widespread concern by the SEC members that some faculty are not including any grading information in their syllabus, they believe that it is an issue of lack of knowledge of the guidelines rather than a flaw in the guidelines themselves.

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the issues and do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about the SEC's decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elise Miller-Hooks".

Elise Miller-Hooks
Chair
University Senate

Cc: William Rivera
Laura Slavin
Chelsea Benincasa