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Student Government Association

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Online Syllabi

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Online Syllabi

Benefit

Students can use an Online Syllabi sources to find objective information about a specific class. It will push students away from using sites like Ratemyprofessor.com. It will help students know what is expected of them and give professors a better opportunity to express a professor's need.

Goals/Objectives

Our goal is to help students better understand the type of class they are enrolling in for the semester. Not only will this help the student, but it will help the instructor by making sure those students that don't have the time or the preference of a certain teaching style can carefully evaluate if this class/section is the best for them.

Target Audience

This initiative is targeted toward UCF students and faculty, but ideally be public information and accessible by the public.

Plan of Action

Inquiries with other schools ranging from Seminole State College to MIT have shown that it has taken multiple years to get 100% participation from faculty. We will start off small and progressively build upon the program throughout the years.

SGA's Role

Student Government has been in contact with other colleges and universities collecting information about an online syllabi program. Seminole State College has enacted this program at their college and has received positive feedback from their student body. Ultimately, SGA is trying to get this initiative brought to myUCF.edu.

SGA has concluded it would be best to create a separate website initially and to hopefully transition it to work with myUCF in the near future. We will help to start the site and work with departments to get info uploaded.

Requirements from Faculty

The idea is that faculty will be able to use this website to provide as much information that they want to include. It is completely up to them if they want to take advantage of this website. The faculty would not be required to participate, but this program has been proven to be affective among other colleges and universities. An instructor can design their modules to include or not include date specific information and other information. All information will be subject to change, but any information is better than no information.

What to Include

- Course Information
 - Subjective comments- teaching styles/class expectation
 - Course Objectives
- Instructor Information
- Textbook Information
- Grade Scale
- Policies (i.e. attendance, academic integrity, due dates, code of conduct)
- Schedule
- Class Assignments
- Syllabus Disclaimer

The website would be designed in the way you can add as many modules as you want and name them accordingly. Within each module, you can include whatever information the instructor would like to include. The suggestions listed above are just an example and not limited to them.

Faculty Senate's Role

We are coming to Faculty Senate to get the perspective of professors on this initiative, as well as deciding on different opinion to execute this initiative.

Option 1: Link this information to a module on myUCF.edu so when students are signing up for classes they can use this link to guide them.

Option 2: Make a separate website where professors upload pre-written syllabus.

Option 3: Make a separate website where professors upload a pre-written syllabus or a student can upload a syllabus from a past semester.

Option 4: Make a separate website where students can add as many modules as they want and within these modules can explain specific information about a professor's class with the permission of the professor.

*Option 4 is the option that this proposal was built around and is the option that SGA believes would work the best.