

## **Memorandum**

### **Academic Senate Executive Committee Electronic Vote 7/26/19**

#### **Results**

The Academic Senate Executive Committee members were asked by Senate President Julio Facelli to submit an electronic vote addressing a word change to the previously approved Syllabi Campus Safety Message (see next). Thirteen members voted to approve. These votes were emailed to Jane Laird at the Academic Senate Office and the tally of the vote results were:

Approved: 13

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

No Response: 2

The word change request was approved by a quorum of voting members on July 27, 2019 under the Executive Committee's summer recess authority.

**From:** [senate.ec-request@lists.utah.edu](mailto:senate.ec-request@lists.utah.edu) on behalf of [Jane Laird](#)  
**To:** [senate.ec@lists.utah.edu](mailto:senate.ec@lists.utah.edu)  
**Subject:** [senate.ec] FW: URGENT Message from President Julio Facelli  
**Date:** Friday, July 26, 2019 11:12:21 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[FW Syllabi statement on Campus Safety.msg](#)

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Senate Executive Committee:

**For Senate Executive Committee Voting Members: Please reply to this message (reply to Jane Laird) with your vote on this as soon as possible, preferably by July 31<sup>st</sup> 2019.** You may simply reply “Yes” if you *approve* of the proposed word change described below.

The specific motion is to change the phrasing of the mandatory statement in course syllabi to read:

"The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a **courtesy** escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu)."

**Background:** At the April 1, 2019 meeting, the Senate approved adding to course syllabi a mandatory statement about student safety, including information about an escort program. It was phrased:

"The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a **safety** escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu)."

Subsequently, Senate leaders have been informed of a concern (see more details in the attachment) that describing the escort as a “Safety” Escort would be problematic— because some persons would likely interpret that to mean that a uniformed law enforcement officer would be responding to provide the escort. Some would be reluctant to use the service if they believe it involves police officers. Others would be disappointed after requesting assistance and expecting to have the police respond. After some careful deliberations the University leadership has concluded that a more accurate informative description is “**courtesy escort**”, which is the language used in many of the current signs that you may have seen already on campus.

The original proposal to add to syllabi a statement about the escort program was brought to the Senate by student representatives. After learning of the concern about confusion over involvement of police— student representatives are supporting this proposed minor change of phrasing. 2019-20 ASUU President Anna Marie Barnes, and 2018–19 ASUU Senate Chair Kaitlin Mclean (who led Senate presentation of the original proposal) support this request, as does President Ruth Watkins. It is important to get a Senate decision regarding the changed phrasing quickly because syllabi are already being prepared for fall semester courses. Accordingly, the plan is to (i) have the Senate Executive Committee now approve the revised statement by this email vote (acting on behalf of the full Senate during summer recess), then (ii) have the Executive Committee further discuss and reaffirm approval at the in-person August committee meeting. Then (iii) per standard procedure the summer recess action of the Executive Committee will be reported at the first fall meeting of the full Senate.

Thank you for your attention. Reply with your vote on the motion —to Jane. A simple **YES** is enough if you approve. Or let Jane or me know if you have questions or comments.

Julio Facelli— Academic Senate President 2019-20;  
[Julio.Facelli@utah.edu](mailto:Julio.Facelli@utah.edu)

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Dr. Julio C. Facelli

*Professor and Vice Chair, [Dept. of Biomedical Informatics](#)*

*President Academic Senate*

*Associate Director for Biomedical Informatics, [Center for Clinical and Translational Science](#)*

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**From:** Randy Dryer  
**To:** Robert Flores  
**Cc:** Julio Cesar Facelli; Thomas Richmond; Kaitlin McLean  
**Subject:** FW: Syllabi statement on Campus Safety  
**Date:** Friday, July 26, 2019 7:46:29 AM  
**Attachments:** image001.png

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Bob...  
See below for the explanation of the proposed wording change that I asked Brooke Adams to send me.  
Randy

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**From:** BROOKE ADAMS <[brooke.adams@utah.edu](mailto:brooke.adams@utah.edu)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2019 6:10 PM  
**To:** Randy Dryer <[r.dryer@honors.utah.edu](mailto:r.dryer@honors.utah.edu)>  
**Cc:** Rick Mclenon <[rick.mclenon@dps.utah.edu](mailto:rick.mclenon@dps.utah.edu)>; Christopher Nelson <[christopher.nelson@utah.edu](mailto:christopher.nelson@utah.edu)>; Annalisa Purser <[annalisa.purser@utah.edu](mailto:annalisa.purser@utah.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Syllabi statement on Campus Safety

Hi Randy,

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and University Marketing & Communications to request that the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate change one word in the safety language that has been approved for faculty use on syllabi. We request that the bolded word "safety" in the paragraph below be changed to "courtesy."

"The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a **safety** escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu)."

This spring, the Department of Public Safety changed the term "safety escort" and "security escort," which were used interchangeably, to "courtesy escort." The department has replaced all door/building stickers and its materials to reflect this change and University Marketing & Communications has adopted the term. We were unaware of the action taken to include this information on syllabi until seeing a story for @theU this week; that story is set to run Monday.

The Department of Public Safety had three primary reasons for making this change in wording:

1. There does not have to be a safety reason to request a courtesy escort. For example, someone may request a courtesy escort to avoid having to walk from one end of campus to the other in bad weather.
2. More important, the terms "safety" and "security" implied—and were often interpreted to mean—that a sworn police officer was responding to provide the escort, signaling an official action, when that was not the case. While officers sometimes assist, most often it is non-certified personnel who provide this service. For liability reasons, it is prudent to avoid that inference.
3. Also of critical importance: Some students, particularly students of color and undocumented students, are uncomfortable around law enforcement and have shared that they do not and will not use the "safety escort" or "security escort" service. The new wording will hopefully make these students less reluctant to reach out for an escort when needed.

We are hopeful that it is possible to change the word identified above swiftly so that the wording corresponds with the messaging in place around campus. In the event the executive committee approves this request, we will be able to update the @theU story.

In closing, on behalf of the communication/marketing and public safety offices, I want to express appreciation for the senate's action on this student-led initiative, which will broadly highlight this important safety information and bring it to the attention of many students. Thank you!

I am happy to answer addition questions if needed.

Brooke

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Brooke Adams  
*Senior news writer/  
Executive communication manager*  
**The University of Utah**  
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**From:** Randy Dryer <[r.dryer@honors.utah.edu](mailto:r.dryer@honors.utah.edu)>  
**Date:** Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 4:28 PM  
**To:** BROOKE ADAMS <[brooke.adams@utah.edu](mailto:brooke.adams@utah.edu)>  
**Subject:** Syllabi statement on Campus Safety

Hi Brooke...  
I have left you a voice message. Please get me the email setting forth the change that is needed to the syllabi statement and the rationale for the word change. If you get that to me later today or tomorrow we can have the Senate Executive Committee approve the change by email next week. This would mean the new language could be included in the syllabi for fall semester.  
Randy

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