

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE STUDENT GOVERNMENT, INC.
GENERAL STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION
“REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR A SYLLABUS REPOSITORY ACT”**

Date: 11-18-2025

Resolution #: 46S-EXE-150-11-18-2025

AN ACT TO URGE: UMSG’s campus leadership partners to support the establishment of a syllabus repository.

WHEREAS, the University of Maine Student Government Syllabus Bank Report '25, drawing on a survey conducted by UMSG, found that 93.2% of undergraduate student respondents supported the creation of a centralized syllabus repository. Students reported that outdated and overly brief catalogue descriptions often led to misaligned expectations, contributing to decisions to drop or withdraw from courses; and

WHEREAS, a syllabus repository is a secure, university-maintained platform that provides students, faculty, and advisors access to recent and past course syllabi (including key information on assignments, learning objectives, and instructional approaches), thereby offering a more accurate and comprehensive resource than brief catalogue descriptions alone; and

WHEREAS, as outlined in the Syllabus Bank Report, peer institutions such as the University of Georgia, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Arkansas have implemented syllabus banks, and their success in nearly every case hinged on clear institutional policy, sustained administrative partnership, and widespread participation; and

WHEREAS, President Tripp has maintained close communication with the Office of the Provost since the Spring '25 semester on the matter, receiving valuable insight, assistance, and general support for exploring the implementation of a syllabus repository, with the understanding that similar resolutions of support would be approved through the Graduate, Undergraduate, and Faculty Senates; and

WHEREAS, UMSG recognizes the Faculty Senate as the governing body with primary responsibility for academic matters, and has approached the Faculty Senate leadership and its Academic Affairs Committee to begin collaborating on a path forward that preserves faculty intellectual property while improving course selection for students. A proposal has been presented to the Academic Affairs Committee and has received constructive feedback, and UMSG looks forward to continuing this work to ensure faculty concerns are fully addressed; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Government has been approached as a full partner in this effort, given that graduate students depend on access to syllabi for advising, teaching assistant preparation, and documentation needed for professional and academic

1994

WHEREAS, even without the stipulation made by the Office of the Provost, UMSG has always intended to seek equal support and full partnership from its shared governance counterparts, and believes that this initiative can strengthen both the student academic experience and the collaborative working relationships among UMSG, the Graduate Student Government, the Faculty Senate, and the Provost's Office.

RESOLVED, that UMSG affirms its strong belief that an equitably and collaboratively developed syllabus repository will strengthen academic transparency, enhance student success, and deepen the working relationships among the University's governing partners, setting a positive precedent for future partnerships; and

AUTHOR: President Tripp
SPONSOR: Vice President Shelmerdine
COMMITTEE: Executive Committee
RECOMMENDATION: 11-0-0 OTP

SIGNATURE:

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2

President, University of Maine Student Government, Inc.