56-R-21

A Resolution to Encourage the Adoption of Generative AI Syllabus Statements

Hayden Price (for himself) introduced the following resolution to the Academic Affairs Committee where it passed. Then, to the Steering Committee where it passed, and to the floor where it passed.

<p align="center">*   *   *</p>

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University; and

Whereas generative AI has recently become an important issue in many areas, including higher education;[1] and

Whereas the use of and future direction of generative AI is controversial, but this technology will inevitably continue to become more and more integrated with our world;[2][3][4] and

Whereas the university has not yet adopted an official policy on generative AI use in the classroom;[5] and

Whereas a syllabus is a contract and permanent record that makes it clear what the rules and expectations of a course are while providing accountability to both students and instructors;[6] and

Whereas in recognition of the growing relevance of generative AI, many academics have advocated in prominent education journals[7] and newspapers[8] for instructors to directly address the issue of generative AI in their syllabi; and

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[1] https://er.educause.edu/articles/sponsored/2023/9/generative-ai-in-education-past-present-and-future
[2] https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2023/05/31/the-future-of-generative-ai-beyond-chatgpt/
[3] https://today.ucsd.edu/story/the-future-of-ai-is-now
[4] https://news.mit.edu/2023/what-does-future-hold-generative-ai-1129
[5] https://teaching.resources.osu.edu/teaching-topics/ai-considerations-teaching-learning
[6] https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/87567550209595875
[7] https://www.mdpi.com/2227-7102/14/1/68
[8] https://www.chronicle.com/article/should-you-add-an-ai-policy-to-your-syllabus

Whereas the academic misconduct statement that is often currently included in syllabi[9] does not provide clear direction on the use of generative AI in the classroom and instead links to the recently revised student code of conduct,[10] where rule 3335-23-04, paragraph (A), item 5 prohibits "Unauthorized use of generative artificial intelligence systems or similar technologies to complete academic activities"; and

Whereas course syllabi are more often read and more thoroughly read than the student code of conduct; and

Whereas course policy on generative AI varies wildly from instructor to instructor, with some instructors encouraging students to explore the potential of the technology and others forbidding its use at any stage of a student's work; and

Whereas the vast majority of instructors do not make their policies on the use of generative AI clear in the syllabus, instead relying on in-class discussion and student prompting to define their policies; and

Whereas the university's Office of Undergraduate Education's Recommended Syllabus Statements include a statement on generative AI that reads "generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless an instructor for a given course specifically authorizes their use. Some instructors may approve of using generative AI tools in the academic setting for specific goals. However, these tools should be used only with the explicit and clear permission of each individual instructor, and then only in the ways allowed by the instructor"; however, it does not provide clear encouragement to the instructor to tailor this statement to their own class;[11] and

Whereas certain academic departments, such as the College of Pharmacy,[12] have already adopted The Office of Undergraduate Education's recommended generative AI statement into their syllabus templates; and

Whereas the Michael V. Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning,[13] The Teaching & Learning Resource Center[5] and other university offices provide institutional resources for developing classes with the implications of generative AI in mind; and

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[9] https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements

[10] https://trustees.osu.edu/code-student-conduct/3335-23-04

[11] https://ugeducation.osu.edu/recommended-syllabus-statements-and-policies

[12] https://pharmacy.osu.edu/announcements/preparing-teaching-spring-2024

[13] https://drakeinstitute.osu.edu/news/2023/03/20/artificial-intelligence-offers-opportunities-and-challenges-teaching-perspectives

Whereas universities such as Northwestern,[14] Minnesota,[15] Wisconsin,[16] and Ohio University,[17] encourage instructors to include syllabus statements regarding generative AI and provide publicly available and easy-to-find sample statements that instructors can adopt or adapt for their own classes; and

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government has previously been successful in encouraging instructors to include statements in their syllabi, with 47-R-13 *A Resolution to Support the Inclusion of a Mental Health Statement* leading to the widespread adoption of a statement regarding the Office of Student Life Counseling and Consultation Services.[11]

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government recommends that all Ohio State University campuses encourage every academic department to include specific language within their course syllabi informing students of instructor policies regarding the use of generative AI; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that specific language in the syllabus should clarify the instructor's policy not only for natural language processing tools, such as ChatGPT, Bard, Copilot, and Grammarly but also for other generative AI tools, such as text-to-image models like Dall-E or Firefly, where applicable.

Floor Vote: Aye: 24 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 24

Bobby A. McAlpine
President

Alex Poling
Speaker of the 56th General Assembly

Date Adopted: January 24th, 2024   Date Terminated: _____

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[14] https://www.registrar.northwestern.edu/faculty-staff/syllabi.html#:~:text=Academic%20Integrity%20Statement&text=Optional%20statement%20regarding%20AI%2Dgenerated,of%20Northwestern's%20academic%20integrity%20policy

[15] https://provost.umn.edu/chatgpt-syllabus-statements

[16] https://teachlearn.wisc.edu/generative-ai/ai-statements-for-course-syllabi/

[17] https://www.ohio.edu/center-teaching-learning/generative-ai-statements-syllabi