

CAPS and ARS Syllabi Statements Proposal Overview

By Emma Caponigro and Raleigh Cury

- **Introduction**

- In November 2017, we began researching ways to improve policies and practices surrounding late withdrawals from courses, which led us to recognize the importance of awareness and promotion of mental health and disability resources. Including information about Accessibility Resources & Service (ARS) and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) on class syllabi will foster more inclusive classrooms that better enable the success of students by promoting awareness of and destigmatizing ARS and CAPS, as well as prompting teachers to talk about these resources as they discuss their syllabi on the first day of class.

- **Proposal Mechanics**

- CAPS Statement:
 - **“Counseling and Psychological Services:** CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short or long-term needs. Go to their website: <https://caps.unc.edu> or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Services building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.”
- ARS Statement:
 - **“Accessibility Resources & Service:** UNC-Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations for students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health struggles, chronic medical conditions, temporary disability, or pregnancy complications, all of which can impair student success. See the ARS website for contact and registration information: <https://ars.unc.edu/about-ars/contact-us>”

- **Professor Logistics**

- Information regarding CAPS and ARS resources could be covered in the New Faculty Orientation in the Fall
- Office of the Undergraduate Curricula and its Director Nick Siedentop would make our statements “strongly recommended” and support our endeavor fully

- **Student Feedback**

- Overwhelming positive support from students (both in and out of Student Gov)
- First generation students may not be as likely to have background knowledge about such resources, and thus including this information on syllabi could help educate them about CAPS and ARS
- Certified professionals in CAPS and ARS are much better equipped than almost all other university staff and faculty to help students with withdrawals

Faculty Support

- Stephen R Hooper (Professor, Associate Dean and Chair, Department of Allied Health Sciences)
- Kevin Jeffay (Professor and Chair, Department of Computer Science)
- Adam Versenyi (Professor and Chair, Department of Dramatic Art)
- Jeffrey S Johnson (Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry)
- W. Fitzhugh Brundage (Professor and Chair, Department of History)
- Jonathan M. Hess (Professor and Chair, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures)
- Mary Floyd-Wilson (Professor and Chair, Department of English and Comparative Literature)
- Paul T. Roberge (Professor and Chair, Department of Linguistics)
- Donna B Gilleskie (Professor and Chair, Department of Economics)
- Darin A Padua (Professor and Chair, Department of Exercise and Sport Science)
- Patricia L. Sullivan (Associate Professor and DUS, Department of Public Policy)
- Jeff Summerlin-Long (Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy)
- Morris Weinberger, PhD (Vergil N. Slee Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management)
- Wendell Gilland (Associate Professor and Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Business Program at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School)
- Anna Millar (Director of the Undergraduate Business Program at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School)
- Georgette Dent (Associate Dean for Student Affairs at UNC School of Medicine)