



OFFICE OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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April 12, 2018

Provost Maurie McInnis
The University of Texas at Austin MAI 4005
Campus Mail Code: G3400 Dear Provost McInnis:

Approved by Executive Vice President and
Provost Maurie McInnis on April 18, 2018

Dear Provost McInnis,

Enclosed for your consideration and action is a proposal to change the name of the Ethics and Leadership Flag to Ethics Flag as approved by the Educational Policy Committee (D 16478-16479). The Faculty Council approved the legislation on a no-protest basis on April 11, 2018. The authority to grant final approval of this legislation resides with your office on behalf of the President.

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide other information concerning this item.

Sincerely,

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and
Comparative Literature

AWF:dlr Enclosure

ec: Lydia A. Cornell, Administrative Program Coordinator, Provost's Office
Michelle K. George, Administrative Manager for Faculty Affairs, Provost's Office
Seema Agarwala, Chair of the Educational Policy Committee
Jeanette M. Herman, Assistant Dean, Academic Initiatives, School of Undergraduate Studies
Larry Abraham, Associate Dean, School of Undergraduate Studies
Jennifer K. Morgan, Program Manager, School of Undergraduate Studies
Brenda A. Schumann, Deputy to the Registrar
Daniel F. Horgan, Senior Software Developer/Analyst, Office of the Registrar

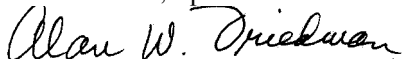
DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP FLAG TO ETHICS FLAG AS APPROVED BY THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Seema Agarwala (Chair of the Educational Policy Committee, and Associate Professor, Molecular Biosciences) has filed with the Secretary of the Faculty Council the following proposal to change the name of the Ethics and Leadership Flag to Ethics Flag. The Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee approved the name change on March 8, 2018, and forwarded it to the Educational Policy Committee, who approved it on April 3, 2018. Final approval resides with the Provost on behalf of the President.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by April 11, 2018.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council

The University of Texas at Austin

Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP FLAG TO ETHICS
FLAG AS APPROVED BY THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

Current name: Ethics and Leadership Flag

Proposed name: Ethics Flag

Rationale: The name of the Flag has caused confusion in students and instructors, both current and prospective. Those who are unfamiliar with the goals of the Flag assume (not unreasonably) that ethics and leadership must be equal components of courses that carry the Flag. The Criterion does not mention leadership, and the Interpretation and Learning Objectives only include leadership in order to articulate its connection to ethics. Because leadership has therefore never been an explicit requirement of courses that carry the Ethics and Leadership Flag, changing the name of the Flag will not cause harm to established Ethics and Leadership flagged courses or to the goals of the Flag, but would instead eliminate misunderstandings about the Flag.

The criterion for the Ethics and Leadership Flag, which was established by Faculty Council in 2006, states that in courses carrying the Flag, at least one third of the grade must be based on work in practical ethics, or the study of what is involved in making real-life ethical choices. Although the Flag Committee that originally interpreted this criterion thought that "leadership" was related, insofar as leadership must necessarily involve ethical decision-making, it has never been part of the criteria for this Flag that courses must actually study leadership in any way. As the Flag Committee membership has changed over time, the Flag Committee has focused on the explicit criterion for the flag, and the word "leadership" in the Flag title has simply been ignored.

When we work with faculty across campus who are proposing their courses for the Ethics and Leadership Flag, the word "leadership" is confusing. Even though leadership does not figure into the Flag criterion or interpretation, faculty still see the word "leadership" in the title and incorrectly assume either that work focusing on leadership (but not on ethics) would count toward the percent of graded content to make the course eligible for the Flag, or that because they do not want to teach about leadership in a course, they would not be able to apply for the Flag.

The motivation behind changing the name of the Flag from "Ethics and Leadership" to "Ethics" is to eliminate this confusion and have the name of the Flag more accurately represent to faculty, students, and others what these courses actually teach students. Both the Flag Committee and UGSAC considered a variety of alternatives for the new name of the Flag, but UGSAC settled on "Ethics" because it was the most inclusive of disciplinary perspectives drawn from across campus and of approaches to teaching students about ethical reasoning. All of the other possibilities considered either referred to a specific branch of ethics, excluded particular colleges' approaches to this Flag, or introduced some other element that is not part of the criteria for this Flag.