



Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

- Senate Bill 331-
- Resolution 331- **604**

I, Sydney Thayer, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

- Approve
- Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation:

**The Syllabus Access Resolution**

*Sydney Thayer*

President, 33rd Student Assembly (23-24)

DATE:

**2/28/24**

331<sup>st</sup> Student Assembly,  
Senate Resolution 331-004

A Resolution

*To better prepare students for their academic and professional success*

**The Syllabus Access Resolution**

An Act of the 331st Student Assembly of William & Mary

Sponsored by Senator Mayer Tawfik ('27)

Co-Sponsored by Class President Nico Giro-Martin ('27), Senator Tyson Liverman ('27), Class President Mia Tilman ('24), and Senator Soleil Garnett ('24)

Supported by Dean Suzanne Raitt (Arts & Sciences), Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education Shelly N. Laurenzo (Arts & Sciences), Chief of Staff Marley Fishburn ('24), Secretary of Academic Affairs Becca Stamm ('25), and Secretary of Diversity Initiatives Oscar Lazo ('25)

WHEREAS, the University is implementing the usage of the CourseLeaf PATH software for student class registration starting in Spring 2024 for Fall 2024 class registration;

WHEREAS, faculty do not currently have the ability to attach syllabi directly to course descriptions;

WHEREAS, the PATH software has the functionality to accommodate different class resources (including syllabi), a feature not present in Open Course List;

WHEREAS, CourseLeaf softwares are being utilized by over 500 higher education institutions;

WHEREAS, other institutions utilizing the PATH software allow faculty to attach syllabi directly to course descriptions;

WHEREAS, syllabi can be protected as to only be seen by university-affiliated personnel, as demonstrated by Brown University's implementation of the PATH software;

WHEREAS, syllabus inaccessibility disadvantages first-generation low-income (FGLI) students who may not have access to experienced and knowledgeable mentors during the registration process;

WHEREAS, syllabus accessibility will help create more engaged and passionate students due to greater intentionality in the course registration process;

WHEREAS, syllabus accessibility will help students find readings and text materials for self-directed learning;

WHEREAS, syllabus accessibility can foster interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty and lead to a more constructive and collaborative academic environment;

WHEREAS, syllabus accessibility can guide students toward taking the most beneficial classes for their professional development, supporting the university's career initiative;

WHEREAS, syllabus accessibility will foster accurate expectations about student's workloads, promoting the University's goal of supporting health and wellness within the student body;

WHEREAS, increased syllabus accessibility promotes the university's Vision 2026 goals: increasing affordability and access of education;

WHEREAS, faculty participation in increasing syllabus accessibility will be entirely voluntary;

WHEREAS, syllabi are always subject to change by faculty after publication and as such should not be treated by students as unchangeable;

WHEREAS, it is the Student Assembly's responsibility to advocate for the student body and work for the betterment of their social, academic, financial, and professional success;

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Formally calls on the University Registrar to allow professors to attach syllabi directly to their course descriptions;
2. Formally calls on Deans of the following schools and heads of departments to encourage their faculty members to publish their syllabi to the university's new PATH software once the functionality is implemented:
  - a. Arts & Sciences,
  - b. Raymond A. Mason School of Business,
  - c. William & Mary School of Education,
  - d. William & Mary Law School,
  - e. William & Mary School of Marine Science at VIMS;
3. Formally calls on the University Registrar, heads of departments, and deans of the aforementioned schools to affirm faculty's rights to edit any published syllabi or choose whether to upload a syllabus;
4. Charges the sponsors of this resolution with cooperating with the necessary department heads and/or university administrators to encourage the accessibility of syllabi prior to, and during, the registration process;

5. Charges the sponsors of this resolution with tracking syllabus access after implementation and taking the necessary steps to encourage faculty participation in increasing syllabus access.