Election-Related Course Flexibility

OVERVIEW

In light of the upcoming US presidential election, we recommend additional flexibility in courses so that your students can continue to study effectively in its aftermath. The guidance that follows is consistent with our earlier recommendations for course flexibility but highlights adjustments you may want to make in light of the election.

CLASS MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

- Courses should meet as planned throughout the semester, including on election day and the following day. Whether you use class time to discuss current events is, of course, entirely at your discretion. Refer to the Bok Center resources for the election for additional support in planning for an in-class discussion of the election.
- If you require attendance or grade attendance and participation, consider making attendance optional on the day following the election or allowing students an alternative option (such as watching a recording, writing a reading response, or attending an alternative session).
- As a general mechanism for helping students manage changing circumstances, consider allowing students a fixed number of class absences that they may use as needed.

DEADLINES AND EXAMS

- Avoid setting significant or high-stakes assignment deadlines, quizzes, or exams on election day or the day immediately following.
- If you have a previously scheduled deadline within this period, consider extending the deadline.
- If you have a test or quiz scheduled for election week, consider providing an alternative time option or alternative assessment.
- As a general mechanism for helping students manage changing circumstances, consider
allowing students a fixed number of “late days” that they may use as needed on assignments.

- Provide a clear mechanism for students to request extensions and be lenient in granting reasonable requests.

**SUPPORTING STUDENTS**

Some students will need support beyond course flexibility. While you, course TFs, and the course community are one potential source of support, we recommend that you help make your students aware of the many sources of support available at the college.