



UNIVERSITY of NICOSIA

Senate Resolution
Spring 2020 Semester and COVID-19 Pandemic
108th Senate (Online) Meeting - 26 March 2020, 14.00.

The Senate held its 108th meeting online on the 26th of March 2020 at 14.00.

The Senate commended the positive, conscientious and excellent response of faculty to address the current crisis. The extra work they have undertaken to respond during these difficult times of transition to on-line teaching and to assist students to cope with the situation is noted and deeply appreciated.

The Senate, having considered the latest developments with regards the COVID-19 pandemic, has unanimously decided the following, which apply for all Schools except the Medical School:

A. Spring 2020 Semester

1. Completion of the Spring 2020 Semester

- i. The Spring 2020 Semester will be completed, as per the academic calendar 2019-2020.
- ii. The completion of the semester entails the completion of both the teaching/learning, as well as the final assessment.

2. Online Teaching/Learning

- i. No face-to-face teaching will take place till the end of the teaching period of the Spring 2020 semester (9th May 2020 is last day of classes and 16th May 2020 is the last day of the Study Week).
- ii. All classes (including lab/studio/music/dance courses) will be conducted online, until the last day of the teaching period. Faculty members, programme coordinators, Heads of Department and Deans of School, are already exploring possibilities for virtual and other remote methods for teaching lab/studio/music/dance courses and/or ensuring the achievements of the same Learning Outcomes through alternative methods.

3. Final Examinations (Excluding Joint Programmes)

- i. The examination period, as per the academic calendar 2019-2020, is from the 18th of May 2020 to the 2nd of June 2020. It will be extended to the 5th of June 2020.
- ii. No face-to-face invigilated final written examinations will take place. Such exams will be replaced by alternative methods of assessment or by online examinations, all of equal weight and difficulty, as per below:
 - a. Alternative assessment methods
 - i. Take home examinations
 - ii. Major project assignments
 - iii. Portfolios (where applicable e.g. design/art/etc.)
 - iv. Other methods specific for the discipline (e.g. music, dance, architecture, etc.)An oral examination may complement any of the above methods. Guidelines of alternative methods of assessment will be provided by the University and by the Schools and Departments in specific disciplines.

b. Online Examinations

- i. Oral examinations, which have to be recorded.
- ii. Electronically invigilated written examinations (including open book examinations) using e-proctoring software approved by the University.

Departments and Schools will employ the methods more suitable for their programmes and courses. Any faculty member wishing to offer a different type of assessment than the ones listed above, s/he will need to have the **written approval of the Dean of the School that the course s/he is assessing belongs to.**

- iii. The decision about the final examinations (mainly for the distance learning programmes) is put into effect once there is “confirmation” that DOATAP will accept (the) arrangements.
- iv. The existing marking and grading scheme will be used.

4. Final Examinations (Joint Programmes)

- i. The members of the Governing Committees and the Directors of the joint programmes with Greek universities, will recommend for urgent discussion, to the Governing Committees of the joint programmes, the same arrangements as in A(3)(ii) above.
- ii. Final approval for the methods of examinations of the joint programmes will be given by the Rectorates/Governing Boards of the partner universities.

5. Practicum

- i. Department and School Councils, as well as members of the Governing Committees of the joint programmes will continue seeking solutions to ensure the completion of practicums in various disciplines, both in Cyprus and in Greece.
- ii. Such solutions will ensure the academic recognition (especially by DOATAP for our own programmes), as well as the professional recognition of the graduates’ award titles (diplomas/degrees).

B. Award Titles (Degrees/Diplomas)

1. The award titles (diploma/degrees) of graduates will be issued as per the standard practice, usually two weeks after the last day of the examination period.
2. Each student will have immediate access to true copies of her/his award title/diploma/degree, through a secure online system.
3. If possible, the original certificate will be posted to the student.

C. Graduation Ceremonies

1. The June graduation ceremonies are postponed.
2. The new dates of the graduation ceremonies will be reconsidered at a later stage, with the aim to organize them, if possible, in September 2020.

D. Internal Quality Assurance Committees

1. The Internal Quality Assurance Committees (IQACs) of the University, will be overseeing the delivery and the assessment of the online classes, ensuring the adherence to the university quality standards.
2. Any issues that cannot be resolved by the University Internal Quality Assurance Committee (UIQAC) will be brought to the attention of the Rectorate.
3. The Director of Quality Assurance Compliance Office (DACO) will monitor any administrative issues pertaining to quality assurance and provide data and information relating to offering of online classes, data analytics, etc.

E. Contingency Academic Plan and Emergency Academic Period

1. According to the Contingency Academic Plan, approved by the Senate and the Council on the 10th of March 2020 (version 1) and 12th of March 2020 (version 2), and already put into effect as per the relevant decisions, further academic decisions and actions emanating from the above or from any other developments, during the Emergency Academic Period, will be taken by the Rector, as already authorized by the Senate.
2. The Senate will continue to meet online, on a monthly basis as normally, and if needed it will be meeting urgently on an ad-hoc basis.

Professor Philippos Pouyioutas
Rector

Signature:



Date: Thursday 26th March, 2020.