



30 October 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO Members, University Senate

FROM University Senate Council

RE AGENDA ITEM: University Senate Meeting, Monday, 10 November 1997 at 3:00 PM. Proposal to modify the University Senate Rules Section I - 1.4.2, to eliminate required biennial faculty surveys

Proposal (delete the entire section reproduced below)

1.4.2 IDENTIFYING ISSUES FOR STUDY (US: 2/13/89)

An ad hoc committee of properly qualified professionals shall be appointed by the Senate Council to survey a random sample of the faculty in the spring of each even numbered year to identify the most pressing issues facing the University during the coming year. The Senate Council shall evaluate the issues and, where appropriate, assign them to standing committees. Any significant issue not within the jurisdiction of one of the standing committees shall be referred to an ad hoc committee appointed by the Senate Council. Standing and ad hoc Committees of the Senate shall have the privilege of presenting reports to that body after review by the Senate Council provided the report has been appropriately circulated in advance.

In addition to issues generated by this faculty survey, the Senate Council may identify other issues for committee study as a result of suggestions by its members or by a student, faculty, or administrator at any time.

Committee members may also decide on issues for study by their own committees if this work does not interfere with Senate Council assignments.

Background and Rationale

In February, 1997, the Senate Council appointed a Task Force to examine the utility of Senate Rule I - 1.4.2.

The Task Force discussed the issue, met with faculty across the campus, and detected little, if any, enthusiasm for a faculty polling effort.

The Senate Council has not conducted a poll since 1987. Since then, the University Senate has responded to issues from the ten-year accreditation self-study, considered reports from ad hoc Committees addressing issues like faculty retirement and gender equity, and most recently addressed the Higher Education Reform Act of 1997. These and other challenges have been met through the normal functioning of the Senate's standing committees and other ad hoc or special task force committees appointed by the Senate Council.

The Task Force concluded that the Senate would not have been more effective in its operation had faculty polls been conducted in the even-numbered years over the last decade. The Task Force believes the Senate Council can accomplish the *intent* of Rule 1.4.2 by encouraging committee chairs to be sensitive to issues and responsible in carrying forward their responsibilities.

The Task Force recommends the repeal of Senate Rule I - 1.4.2 in its entirety. The Senate Council concurs.

Implementation: Immediate

US Agenda: Faculty Survey: 11.10.97