

ITEM C

The Senate Rules provide that ten senators can, by written petition, bring any matter to the floor of the Senate. A petition was received and is attached hereto, which seeks the preparation of "full minutes," either a transcription or a summary of who said what during debates.

On September 24 the Senate Council discussed this matter. Davy Jones, the author of the petition was present. After discussion the Senate Council voted (though not unanimously) to support the petition with the following changes:

1) The official minutes will continue to be prepared as they are currently prepared - members present, items discussed, actions taken, but will not include a summary of who said what during debates.

2) In addition, a verbatim transcript of the entire proceedings will be prepared by a court stenographer, who will be present during the meetings. Members speaking will be asked to identify themselves for the stenographer. This transcript will be posted on the web and archived, but will not be circulated to the members nor approved (as minutes are).

Davy Jones, the author of the petition, expressed agreement with these changes.

The cost, which can be absorbed within the Senate Council budget, will probably be between \$150 to \$250 per session.

US Agenda Item: 10.8.01

To: Bill Fortune, Chair, Senate Council
From: Davy Jones, Professor, Graduate Center for Toxicology
RE: Preparation of Web-Posted Senate Minutes That Include Text of Discussions and Debates

Sept. 6, 2001

BACKGROUND. During the three decades prior to the last academic year, the minutes of the University Senate have shown the informative debates that preceded the eventual votes to adopt University policies. Since 1993, these 'full' minutes have been web posted for easy access by interested faculty who want to track the debates that fashioned the intent of the final policy that was adopted. It had also enable them to scrutinize the quality of contributions of their own Senate representatives in these discussions. I understand that due to a change in administrative organization involving the Senate staffing, the individual who previously transcribed the tape recordings of the Senate Meetings is no longer accessible to the Senate for that purpose. I also understand that, of course, technology in this day and age is not the limiting factor, but rather the bottleneck is that the Senate budget does not contain sufficient funds to pay for renewed transcription of the tapes of the Senate meetings. The outcome is that for the past academic year, the official Senate minutes prepared and posted are essentially only the motions and votes on action items, with no 21st century, information-age web posting of Senate minutes that show the discussions by the various Senators.

URGENCY. The above outcome has resulted in the informational disenfranchisement of the 1500+ University faculty and ca. 30,000 students, who have now lost the time-efficient web access of the debates and discussions of their Senate representatives. The only recourse during the past year was for the 2000 faculty and 30,000 students to each individually walk to the Senate Council Office to listen to each meeting tape (which has not been the resort for over 30 years). That this resort is untenable in a top-20 aspiring University is further exemplified by that you have informed me that to your understanding, the tapes of all of last year's Senate meetings are in fact not available, having been destroyed in the fire at the Administration Building. Thus, the University faculty who are now subject to, for example, post-tenure review have no written minutes or tape access to last year's Senate discussions that preceded the vote that would reveal *why* the policy took the final form that it did. Similarly, students subject to educational policies adopted last year have no access to a record of the intent of the policies that would be much revealed by the debates and discussions that preceded their adoption. Both the voting faculty and voting students have also lost their ability to determine the level and quality of contribution of their Senate representatives to the discussions that lead to the finally adopted policies. In addition, in the absence of the written record of our Senators' debate and discussion, hearing impaired students and faculty constituents will be denied access to the information that is on the tape. I am sure you agree that the current situation is not acceptable, especially with the appointment of President Todd, who has expressed support for a strong and substantive governance role for the Senate that we have not enjoyed for nearly a decade. It is crucial that interested faculty and students be able to empower themselves with the easy access (that we had prior to last year) to web-posted text of their Senate representatives' discussions that precede the final Senate votes.

SOLUTION. Toward providing yourself and the Senate Council with a clear mandate for your leadership on this matter, I and other concerned faculty have prepared a petition signed by over 70 faculty, from 11 colleges, 21 departments, and signed by 11 Senators (copy forwarded to you here). This petition, states:

"... We request to the Senate and Senate Council that the preparation and web posting of these full minutes be restored beginning with the current academic year, and that if additional funding is needed to support preparation of these full minutes, that a request be submitted to President Todd for such funding."

I have been informed that commercially available transcription services can attend a meeting and using its own equipment prepare a stenographic record of it from tapes for about \$125 per meeting (this means an entire year of Senate meetings for ca. \$1000, i.e., for just a few cents per student/faculty constituent). Given the widespread support by the University faculty, and **given that 11 Senators through signing this petition request that the above quoted item be acted on by the Senate and Senate Council, I ask that you please act on this mandate to bring the matter promptly to the Senate for its positive action and then its transmittal to President Todd.**

Cc: President Lee Todd (excluding the signature list)

Signatures on the petition

(asterisk denotes signature of a Senator)

Vince Gallichio*	Allied HS	George Digenis	Pharmacy
Geza Bruckner	Allied HS (Clinical Nutrition)	Lisa Cassis	Pharmacy
Gilbert Boissenault	Allied HS (Clinical Nutrition)	Sue Straley	Medicine (Micro/Immuno)
Thomas Robinson*	Allied HS (Dean)	Charlie Snow	Medicine (Micro/Immuno)
Wesley Birge	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Alan Kaplan	Medicine (Micro/Immuno)
Sheldon Steiner*	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Steve Zimmer	Medicine (Micro/Immuno)
Chuck Staben	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Rose Booze	Medicine (Anat/Neuro)
Hong Yan	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Paula Knapp	Medicine (Anat/Neuro)
Robin Cooper	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Ramesh Gupta	Medicine (Prev Med)
Phil Crowley	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Guo Min Li	Medicine (Pathology)
Adria Elskus	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Ok-Kyong Park-Sarge	Medicine (Physiology)
Carol Baskin	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Ching Chow	Grad. Sch.(Nutr Sci)
Grace Jones	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Gabrielle Ludwig	Grad. Sch.(Nutr Sci)
Jerry Baskin	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Howard Glauert	Grad. Sch.(Nutr Sci)
Scott Gleeson*	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Tim Miller	Grad. Sch.(Toxicology)
McCletchin	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Mary Vore	Grad. Sch.(Toxicology)
Jim Clark	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Daret St. Clair	Grad. Sch.(Toxicology)
William Cohen	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Zhigang Wang	Grad. Sch.(Toxicology)
David Westneat	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Larry Robertson	Grad. Sch.(Toxicology)
James Krupa	Arts & Sci (Biology)	Kelly Kinningham	Grad. Sch.(Toxicology)
Tae Ji	Arts & Sci (Chemistry)	David Orren	Grad. Sch.(Toxicology)
William Rayens	Arts & Sci (Statistics)	Davy Jones	Grad. Sch.(Toxicology)
William Griffith	Arts & Sci (Statistics)		
Ernest Yanarella	Arts & Sci (Pol Sci)		
Phillip Roeder	Arts & Sci (Pol Sci)		
Herbert Reid	Arts & Sci (Pol Sci)		
Stuart Kaufman	Arts & Sci (Pol Sci)		
Donald Gross*	Arts & Sci (Pol Sci)		
Phyllis Nash*	Asst. Sr VP Acad Affairs		
Keith Schillo	Agriculture (Animal Sci)		
Calvin Liu	Agriculture (Forestry)		
Tom Tobin	Agriculture (Vet Sci)		
Barry Fitzgerald	Agriculture (Vet Sci)		
Roy Smith	Agriculture (Vet Sci)		
Anita Lee-Post	Business & Econ (Dec Sci Info Sys)		
Clyde Holsapple	Business & Econ (Dec Sci Info Sys)		
Al Lederer	Business & Econ (Dec Sci Info Sys)		
Radhika Santhanam	Business & Econ (Dec Sci Info Sys)		
Kaveh Tagavi*	Engineering (Mech Eng)		
George Blanford*	Engineering (Civil Eng)		
Hans Geshund*	Engineering (Civil Eng)		
Mark Hanson*	Engineering (Mech Eng)		
John Hanson*	Engineering (Mech Eng)		
Robert Flashman	Human Env Sci (Family Studies)		
John Goldman	Law		
Carolyn Bratt	Law		
Claudia Diebold	Nursing		
Robert Yokel	Pharmacy		
Todd Porter	Pharmacy		