

Senate Council

Monday, October 16, 2023

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, October 16, 2023, in 103 Main Building, although a video conference link was also available for members. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken electronically unless otherwise specified. Specific voting information can be requested from the Office of the Senate Council (SC).

Senate Council Chair DeShana Collett (HS) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:02pm. The Chair welcomed those present. She informed everyone that the session was being recorded for notetaking purposes and noted that it was an open meeting. She asked that all attendees, online and in person, state their name and affiliation prior to speaking, to ensure everyone knew who was speaking. The Chair asked SC members to be ready to vote via Poll Everywhere. The Chair reminded SC members that regarding the ability to speak, members must raise their hand to be called upon. The Chair also reminded everyone that SC members would have priority speaking, noting that others may be called upon as needed and given a chance to speak only if there were no additional comments from SC members

1. Minutes from October 2, 2023 and Announcements

The Chair informed SC members that no edits were received to the October 2, 2023 minutes. There being **no objections**, the minutes from October 2, 2023 were **approved as distributed by unanimous consent**.

The Chair reminded SC members the Senate Council Office will no longer be using listservs and will instead be transitioning to distribution lists.

2. Committee Reports

a. Senate Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) – Roger Brown, Chair

i. Proposed Changes to Senate Rules 3.2.2.2 ("Course Numbering System," "Exceptions")

Roger Brown (AG), chair of the SREC, provided a brief description of the proposed changes to Senate Rules 3.2.2.2. The Chair stated the **motion** was a recommendation from the committee to approve the proposed changes to SR 3.2.2.2. Because the motion came from the committee, **no second** was required. The Chair opened the floor to members for questions of fact or debate.

SC members raised a number of concerns and debated various aspects of the proposed language. Bob Grossman (AS) **moved** to send the proposal back to the SREC to address SC concerns, including circumstances under which an instructor can agree to a waiver, the timeliness of the request, and if an instructor is not known or is a TA/GA.

A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

ii. Proposed Addition of Defined Term ("Faculty of Record") to Senate Rules

Brown stated the recommendation was no longer for Senate approval, but rather to return this item to the SREC to address further. Davy Jones (ME) provided a brief description of the term "Faculty of

Record” and why it should be added to the SR, as well as the concerns with the proposed language. The Chair stated a majority vote was needed to withdraw this proposal and send it back to the SREC.

A **vote** was taken, the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

3. Discussion on Excused and Unexcused Absences

The Chair stated the purpose of this agenda item was to draft a charge for the ad hoc committee on attendance policies. The Chair reviewed several issues that were mentioned at the October 9th Senate meeting, including:

- How instructors are informed of absences
- Issues with receiving excuse notes from University Health Services and the tier system they use
- The rule is unclear about military absences at the beginning of the semester
- The impact distance learning has made on how absences are perceived
- Clarifying why attendance is pedagogically necessary
- Clarification of course policies in the course syllabus
- Faculty’s lack of broad understanding of the current 20% rule

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. SC members engaged in discussion, including giving the ad hoc committee a broad charge. Kaveh Tagavi (EN) **moved** to ask the Senate Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) to create a charge, but the motion died to lack of a second. Molly Blasing (AS) identified three categories that emerged in the issues that need to be addressed;

1. Mechanics of attendance, including excuse notes, 20% benchmarking, etc.
2. Philosophical ideas, including why attendance is necessary, how technology has changed how we view attendance, the purpose of attendance, etc.
3. Particular circumstances, including special populations, for instance, military members or those with disabilities

The Chair stated she will put together a charge for the ad hoc committee on attendance policies and bring it back to the SC. The Chair mentioned SC members should start thinking about committee composition.

4. Senate Meeting Roundtable

The Chair opened the floor for SC members to share their thoughts about the most recent Senate meeting. SC members expressed their gratitude to the Chair for her hard work on the policy on Core course substitutions.

5. Items from the floor (time permitting)

There were no items from the floor

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by,

DeShana Collett

Prepared by Dori Grady on October 17, 2023

SC members present: Molly Blasing, Lizzy Hornung, Doug Michael, Kaveh Tagavi, Elizabeth Salt, Marilyn Duncan, Holly Swanson, Bob Grossman, Akiko Takenaka

Invited guests present: Sheila Brothers, Robert DiPaola, Gregg Rentfrow