

2. Old Business

a. Possible Charge to Senate's Committee on Committees

Background: During the course of finalizing the SC's composition of Senate committees in fall 2018, Chair Bird-Pollan had the opportunity to review committee charge language in the *Senate Rules (SRs)*. She noticed that it was not clear in the *SRs* why some committees, for example, must be chaired by a member of Senate, while others do not have that restriction. Some committees appear to have SR-granted responsibilities that are currently done by an administrative office. Other committees have ex officio membership that may or may not suit its needs. Given the complexity of the Senate committee structure, **the Chair respectfully asks the SC charge the Committee on Committees (comprised of the chairs of Senate's standing and advisory committees) with initiating a committee-chair and committee-driven review of committees.**

One way to start this process would be for each member of the Committee on Committees to provide their individual, written thoughts regarding the *SR* language regarding the individual Committee they chair.

- Does the charge in the *SRs* correctly describe the committee's activities? Why/why not?
- Does the *SR* language capture the entirety of the committee's activities? Why/why not?
- Does the *SR* language include activities that the committee rarely performs? Never performs? Why/why not?
- Is the committee composed appropriately? Do you need more/fewer members? Why/why not?
- Should this committee's chair always be a senator, or could it be any faculty member? Why/why not?
- Should this committee's composition always be comprised of a majority of senators, or could it be comprised entirely of non-senators? Why/why not?

Once the thoughts and ideas of individual committee chairs are known, the Committee on Committees can provide recommendations to the SC on how to standardize committee requirements pertaining to chairs and members and perhaps address other committee-related aspects. The Committee on Committees can then ask that individual Senate committee chairs provide their individual committees with the opportunity to request updates and revisions to their respective charges. By having this process overseen by the Committee on Committees, we may be able to prevent having committee charges that seemingly overlap, create standards to easily identify how committees should be chaired and composed, and can ensure that the Senate's committee structure can respond to the changing landscape at UK.

Recommended motion: *the SC ask that the Committee on Committees, at a minimum: request individual chairs/members respond to some questions regarding various aspects of a Senate committee; and initiate a larger discussion within the Committee on Committees and also within individual committees about how the committee-related language in the SRs might be changed.*