

Standardizing Senate Rule Language on Councils and Committees

Senate Council Retreat May 13, 2022

Issue: The University Senate has 16 different committees and three academic councils (Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, and Health Care Colleges Council). SR passages related to committees and councils have been written at different points in time.

As a result, committee and council descriptions are not standardized. Some SR language expects a committee to recommend replacement members, but other passages for other committees do not. Some SR language indicates committees have final authority, but other passages do not. Voting rights for ex officio members are not always spelled out and it is not always clear who appoints ex officio members.

Recommendations: Establish standardized terminology and organizational structure for SR passages related to committees and councils. Utilize consistent formatting and wording. (see I, 1-3, below)

I. Councils and Committees of the Senate

- 1) Develop new opening section on 'common policies' for all four of Senate's councils and all standing, advisory, and special/ad hoc committees
 - a) Membership/composition
 - b) Length of term for councils (2 yrs vs 3 yrs)
NOTE: Committee member terms are already within Senate Council's purview
- 2) Differentiate between what a council or committee is responsible for and how the Senate expects them to carry out their responsibilities
 - a) Charge
 - b) Functions
- 3) Clearly state committee's authority
 - a) Establish expectation that Senate committees must provide recommendations to Senate (no approval authority, and cannot prevent an item from moving forward)
 - i) Positive recommendation, negative recommendation, or neutral
 - b) Handful of committees have charges that require final approval authority (no Senate input)
 - i) State this final authority explicitly for those committees, such as SRWAC, Second Reinstatement, SREC's eligibility certifications, and UK Core Committee (exceptions subcommittee and Core designation)

NOTE: GRs define the posture of "Graduate Faculty." Should SRs have parallel definition for other two bodies (Undergraduate Faculty and Health Care Colleges Council Faculty)?

II. SC Discussion Topics for 2022-23 Academic Year

- 1) SR Section 7 Faculty Code: What is the posture of:
 - a) Modify 7.1 through 7.2.2 to focus on campuswide "Faculty Philosophy of Faculty Academic Conduct"
 - b) Delete Section 7.3 ("Enforcement")
 - c) Consider abolishing "Senate Advisory Committee on the Faculty Code"
- 2) Revision of Committee Responsibilities
 - a) SAPC & SAASC
 - b) SAASC & SAAC
 - c) SUKCEC & GCCCR
 - d) SIFRAC
 - e) Inactive committees and possible new committees
 - i) Create standing committees for topics that come up regularly, e.g., Calendar Committee and Nomination Committee
 - ii) Create Faculty Employment Committee (charge could include promotion and tenure issues, recruitment, benefits, etc.)
 - iii) Ad hoc committee nominee pool

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Standing Committees, Group 1 *(must be chaired by senator and have senators comprise majority of membership)*

1. Academic Facilities (SAFC): Provides information & recommendations about the alteration, construction and allocation of all property and physical facilities affecting educational objectives. (Senate Rules 1.4.2.3)
2. Academic Organization and Structure (SAOSC): Reviews and recommends regarding new, abolishment or merger of, and major changes to, educational units. (Senate Rules 1.4.2.8)
3. Academic Planning and Priorities (SAPPC): Recommends major, long-range plans and priorities regarding academic goals and priorities. (Senate Rules 1.4.2.7)
4. Academic Programs (SAPC): Recommends action on all new academic programs. (Senate Rules 1.4.2.6)
5. Admissions and Academic Standards (SAASC): Recommends changes to admission requirements and grading rules; probation and suspension procedures; and degree and graduation requirements. (Senate Rules 1.4.2.2)
6. Library (SLC): Recommends policies to promote educational interests of UK as a whole with respect to the Libraries. (Senate Rules 1.4.2.4)
7. Research and Graduate Education (SRGEC): Responsible for reviewing research and graduate education policies and implementation. (Senate Rules 1.4.2.5)
8. Rules and Elections (SREC): Codifies and interprets the Rules of the University Senate and can initiate changes. Certifies eligibility in elections. (Senate Rules 1.4.2.1)

Standing Committees, Group 2 *(do not have to be chaired by senator or have senators comprise majority of membership)*

9. Academic Advising (SacAC): Makes recommendations regarding effectiveness, accountability and standards for quality of academic advising. Members must advise students. (Senate Rules 1.4.3.5)
10. Admissions Advisory (SAAC): Responsible for recommending admissions policy and administering exceptions for admission to UK. (Senate Rules 1.4.3.3)
11. Distance Learning and e-Learning (SCDLLeL): Identify and monitor issues related to distance learning (DL) and e-learning (e-L); respond to Senate concerning external regulations regarding DL and e-L; recommend strategies regarding DL and e-L; and collaborate on issues relating to DL & e-L. (Senate Rules 1.4.3.1)
12. Institutional Finance and Resource Allocation (SIFRAC): Informs on present status of prospective changes in finances and other resources available to UK. Members should have financial/budgetary experience relevant to higher education. (Senate Rules 1.4.2.9)
13. Retroactive Withdrawals (SRWAC): Decides all student requests for such withdrawals. (Senate Rules 1.4.3.4)
14. Technology (STC): Responsible broadly for educationally related IT issues, including review of IT-related proposals and recommendations on technology issues affecting educational objectives. (SR 1.4.3.7)
15. UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC): Reviews proposals to add Core to courses and recommends policies

Advisory Committees *(advisory responsibilities to Senate, as well as to President/administrative)*

16. Disability Accommodation and Compliance (SACDAC): Recommends educational policies and implementation practices/standards relating to disability accommodation and regulatory compliance. (Senate Rules 1.4.4.4)
17. Diversity and Inclusion (SACDI): Charged to increase diversity among senators, in particular representation of URM; work with senior leadership to disseminate best practices for recruiting & retaining faculty of color and other underrepresented groups; and addressing other related issues. (Senate Rules 1.4.4.5)