

Recommendations Regarding Senate Leadership

The Senate Leadership Ad Hoc Committee makes the following recommendations to the Academic Senate regarding Senate Leadership.

I. Membership

Senate Leadership should be comprised of the following voting members:

- College Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary
- Campus Chairs
- Standing Committee Chairs
- Past College Chair

II. Invited Attendees

While recognizing that Senate Leadership, like any other Senate meeting, is open to attendance by any college employee and student, the following individuals should be invited to attend Senate Leadership meetings:

- 2 representatives of Dean's Cabinet
- Vice Chancellor and Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs
- Recording Secretary

III. Work Performed

Senate Leadership should be empowered to perform the following work on behalf of and for the benefit of the Academic Senate:

- Set the agenda of Academic Senate's college meeting: review motions and proposals from campuses and committees, keep track of old motions and ongoing conversations, receive requests and invite individuals to make presentations
- Wordsmith motions from campuses and committees: adjust wording for clarity, combine similar motions from multiple sources
- Make motions and proposals to bring before the Senate
- Hold a retreat in June to review the past year and identify work items for the coming year
- Draft documents for consideration by the Senate
- Meet collectively and individually with members of the administration, as mandated by the special contracts of its members and at the request of the administration

Supporting Documentation and Rationales

Committee commentary is indicated by red text.

A. Mentions in the Academic Senate Constitution

- 3.3 The College Council Officers, with the Campus Council Chairperson, will form the Executive Committee of the Senate.
- 5.4 The Executive Council will meet in preparation for the monthly College Council meetings.

The committee notes that the constitution both uses different names for the leadership group and leaves its duties vague and open-ended.

B. Responses to Concerns Raised by the Highland Lakes Campus Senate on 3/12/15

1. Senate Leadership should only include campus chairs and college officers.

The committee advocates for an open and inclusive approach to the membership of Senate Leadership. Standing Committee Chairs are actively and intimately engaged in the work of Senate, and their expertise and experience are critical to the proper functioning of Leadership and the Senate as a whole. The past college chair provides valuable perspective and historical knowledge to the work of Leadership and the Senate. Administrative representatives, while not being voting members of Leadership, provide important information concerning questions that emerge during the Leadership meeting, and every opportunity for Senate and the administration to interact should be encouraged. Finally, Senate Leadership, like every Senate meeting, is an open attendance meeting and can be visited by any college employee. At a time when the administration is restricting attendance at Senate functions, the Senate itself should be a model of inclusiveness and engagement.

2. Senate Leadership should not make motions.

Because Leadership is a constitutionally-recognized group that contains at least two elected Senators, it has the ability to make and second motions. In addition, the ability to make motions for the consideration of the Senate is an important part of preparing for the college meeting and setting its agenda.

3. Senate Leadership should not set the policies of the Senate.

Leadership does not set Senate policy. It prepares for the meetings of the college council. All documents and motions crafted by Leadership are submitted to the Senate for consideration and action.

4. Senate Leadership should only set the agenda of the college meeting.

The constitution states that Leadership meets in preparation for the college meetings, which includes many more potential actions and work pieces than merely setting the college meeting's agenda. The constitution does not prohibit Leadership from performing other actions for the benefit of the Senate.

Submitted on April X, 2015 to the Academic Senate by the committee members listed below.

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