

## **Proposed Changes to the Senate By-Laws**

### **PART 1: Calendar Issues**

The new academic calendar poses potential problems for the scheduling of Senate meetings. In the fall semester, the last Senate meeting will fall on a Reading Day. In the spring semester, the first meeting could fall on the first day of classes and spring break may/may not fall on the second Monday of March. The President of the Senate should have discretion in deciding the exact dates of meetings.

If we assume that Senate will meet for 7 sessions per semester, here are the dates for:

Fall 2012: Sept 9 & 10; Oct 8 & 22; Nov 12 & 26; Dec 10 (Reading Day)

Spring 2013: Jan 14 (1<sup>st</sup> day of classes) & 28; Feb 11 & 25; Mar 11 & 25 (Spring Break); April 8 & 22.

Fall 2013: Sept 9 & 23; Oct 14 & 28; Nov 11 & 25; Dec 9 (Reading Day)

*Current wording:*

#### **2.2. Meetings**

2.2.1. The Senate shall meet on the second and fourth Mondays in February, April, September, October, and November, on the second Monday in March, May, and December, and on the fourth Monday in January. In the event that classes are not in session on any of the above dates, the President may cancel the meeting or set an alternative time for the Senate to meet.

*Proposed Wording:*

#### **2.2. Meetings**

2.2.1. The Senate shall meet for seven sessions per academic semester on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the semester. In the event that classes are not in session on any of the above dates, the President may cancel the meeting or set an alternative time for the Senate to meet.

### **PART 2: Consent Agenda**

See file. Using a Consent Agenda.

File is attached to the Faculty Senate Agenda for 2/27/12.

In short, this provides the President with an expedient way to move quickly through items of routine business that require no discussion by the assembly.

*Current Wording:*

3.2. The Steering Committee shall place items on the agenda, shall request that the President of the Senate conduct open hearings on items, or shall request that the President of the Senate refer items to another committee for comment and study. The Steering Committee shall arrange for the distribution to each faculty member a copy of any proposal, be it resolution, report, or other document, from any committee of the University at least seven days in advance of the meeting at which the proposal appears as an agenda item. To recommit an item back to the Standing Committee, however, requires a vote of the Senate.

3.3. The order of business shall normally be: Minutes, Announcements, Faculty Standing Committee reports, Senate Committee reports, Unfinished Business, New Business. A committee chair shall have the right to participate in Senate discussion when making a report to the Senate or when business is before the Senate that affects the operation of his or her committee. The President of the Senate may use his or her discretion as to the participation of non-Senators in discussion. Faculty Senate meetings are open, and the Steering Committee should make efforts to see that meetings are held in a way to accommodate those interested in attending. When, despite such efforts, space is limited, priority attendance should be given to members of constituencies represented in the Senate.

*Proposed Addition to 3.3.*

3.3.1. A consent agenda may be presented by the President of the Senate at the beginning of a meeting. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any one member. Items not removed may be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the assembly.