

University Senate

November 7, 2013 Pre-Meeting Email

Compiled by Ryan Zerr

Members of the University Senate,

I send this email to provide you with a preview of next week's University Senate meeting (Thursday, November 7, 4:05, Gamble Hall Room 7). Of course, the agenda can be seen as serving this same purpose. However, agendas are often too brief to reasonably convey the essence of some items, and so you should see this email as an attempt to provide background on the agenda items. My plan is to make this a regular pre-meeting feature, and in that way help all of us to better understand what is up for discussion. I hope you'll come to see that the matters discussed at Senate have relevance for us all, and therefore benefit immensely from the involvement of all Senators in the discussion.

The announcements at the November 7 meeting will include a time for the Provost to update the Senate on various campus-wide initiatives. There will also be information from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) on the progress of the Shared Governance/Leadership Interest Group, as well as on a strengthening of the Senate's role in providing input on research policies and procedures. A change to the location of Senate meetings will also be announced. The details are still being worked out, but possibly as early as the December meeting the Senate will begin meeting in Education Room 7. I expect to know the details by the time we gather next week.

Attached to the November 7 Senate agenda (Attachment #3) you'll find a collection of proposed changes to the Senate Committee Manual (additions are underlined, deletions struck out). Let me briefly orient you to the nature of those changes, including from whom the various recommendations are originating:

- General Guidelines (pages 7-8): Most of these revisions are recommended by the SEC, except for the revision to Item J, which comes as a recommendation from the Committee on Committees. Those coming from the SEC are made to correct errors or to bring the language into alignment with long-standing practice. The change to Item J is meant to help prevent a situation in which a committee could begin an academic year with no experienced members.
- Senate Administrative Procedures Committee (pages 9-11): As recommended by this committee.
- Senate University Assessment Committee (pages 12-13): As recommended by this committee.
- All Senate committees: As recommended by the SEC, remove the "To perform a thorough review..." language from the charges of all Senate committees. The attachment to the agenda can serve as an illustration of the effect of this change on the Administrative Procedures Committee and the University Assessment Committee. This language seems no longer to be relevant for how Senate committees function.

Finally, you'll also see attached to your November 7 Senate agenda (Attachment #4) a proposal from the Intellectual Property Committee regarding a change to section 5.1.3 of the Intellectual Property Policy. Members of the IP Committee will be in attendance to present their recommendation.

I do hope everyone will be able to attend the meeting on November 7. The University Senate is one of the most important, and longest-standing, venues for facilitating dialogue between administrators, faculty, staff, and students. Without the attendance of everyone in each of these four groups, that dialogue loses much of its potential. And besides, the discussions are interesting (and fun!), allowing us all to engage in helping to shape our institution's future.

I look forward to seeing you on November 7,

Ryan