



### **Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP)**

Minutes of Meeting: 11-3-23

Circulated: 12-1-23

Approved: 1-9-23

Present: Dinesh Pal (Chair), Audrey Bennett, Howard Bromberg, Paul Fossum (Faculty Senate Parliamentarian), Jonathan Brennan, Heather O'Malley (SACUA Liaison), Neil Marsh, Bruce Maxim

Absent: David Potter, Michela Russo, Sergio Villalobos-Ruminott,

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe, Luke McCarthy

**11:01am:** Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the April and October RPP meeting were approved.

**11:01am-11:04am: Committee Charge**

Summary: The Chair introduced the charge for those who were not able to attend the last meeting.

Action: Overview

**11:04am-11:58am: Review of University Senate Rules: Article 1, Section 1 – 6**

Summary: The Chair began reviewing the working Google Doc of the Senate Rules. The work that was completed at the prior meeting was reviewed and discussed. The differences between the Senate Rules and the Regent's Bylaws are reviewed. Senate Rules simply require the Faculty Senate to review and update, whereas Regent's Bylaws require a much more formal and rigorous process. If there is a need to recommend changes to the Regent's Bylaws, the committee can do so, it will just be a lengthier process. There are portions of the Senate Rules that are direct references to the Regent's bylaws.

A discussion ensues on the best way for the Regent's Bylaws listed in the Senate Rules to be identified. Suggestions include alterations to the typography of the bylaws, the inclusion of footnotes, and other ideas.

Section 3.2, which discusses the Secretary of the Faculty Senate, is discussed. In the past there has been difficulty in finding a person who is willing to do the job. It is expressed that the Secretary be able to continue on with their role if they wish to after their first term is up. Discussion ensues on what happens if more than one candidate wishes to be Secretary. There is general consensus that it is OK to allow the Secretary to serve consecutive terms, particularly given the difficulty in filling the role. This is the case for parliamentarian and secretary since they are not voting members of the senate. This is a senate rule and not a regent's bylaw.



A discussion ensued regarding appointment versus election. Opinions are voiced for both sides of the issue. It is stated that election may be better because it allows the full senate to have a voice, and allows for more transparency.

Section 3.3 is discussed, which has to do with the parliamentarian. A suggestion is made that a member of the RPP serve as the parliamentarian. This idea is workshopped, and there are various tweaks proposed. Neutrality, and separation from Senate Assembly are important to the authority and credibility to those who serve in this role. It is also noted that having one person in this role for the FSO to consult with is good. Adding a description of the parliamentarian's duties is suggested. Luke will produce this for review.

Defining the Senate Assembly and other terms at the start of the document is stated as idea worth pursuing. Various ideas are proposed, including a section of definitions, hyperlinking certain words, and adding clarifying sentences within the file.

For the next meeting, quorum is identified as a topic for consideration. Do we need to update the number to reach quorum? There used to be difficulty getting quorum, and hybrid meetings help this. The recent expansion of the Faculty Senate is something to consider as well. The attendance of the University Senate on 11/6 will be reviewed to help inform this discussion.

Action: Discussion and work on document

**11:58am:** Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe  
Faculty Governance Coordinator  
Faculty Senate Office