

Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP)

Minutes of Meeting: 1/9/24

Circulated: 1/26/24

Approved: 2/2/24

Present: Audrey Bennett, Howard Bromberg, Neil Marsh, Jonathan Brennan, Dinesh Pal (Chair), David Potter, Bruce Maxim, Sergio Villalobos-Ruminott

Absent: Michela Russo, Heather O'Malley (SACUA Liaison)

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe, Luke McCarthy

1:01pm-1:02pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the November RPP meeting were approved.

1:02pm-1:57pm: Review of University Senate Rules- Article 1, Section 4: (1-4)

Summary: The committee brought up the working Senate Rules document for review. A discussion ensues on the areas of the document that are in conflict with the Regent's bylaws.

The University Senate Meeting is discussed. The Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture counts as a University Senate Meeting. A distinction is made as to when the University Senate meeting usually takes place. Should the University Senate meeting take place in the winter term to allow for the Senate Assembly to complete several meetings in order to formulate an agenda based on current priorities? A suggestion is made to convert a Senate Assembly meeting to a University Senate meeting. This year there were two separate meetings in November. Should it just be one meeting? There are a lot of requests for service of faculty, so having one meeting might be a better option. The FSO Director indicated that having two separate meetings also created a small amount of confusion among some members as to which meetings they need to attend. Point 1 of Section 4 requires a minor change regarding timing of a University Senate meeting to comply with the Regent's bylaws.

Discussion regarding executive session in the 3 faculty governing bodies ensues. It would not be practical to have it in the University Senate meeting. Who decides when the executive session takes place? It is suggested to keep point 2 of section 4 as is, and it may just never be completed by the University Senate. A point is made that the rules are confusing for those faculty that are not fully engaged in faculty governance. A clarification is made as to how the executive session works in meetings. A suggestion is made to require both SACUA and Senate Assembly approval for executive session in the University Senate meeting. A discussion on when executive session should take place ensues. The Open Meetings Act does not apply to the Faculty Senate. It is suggested to leave this section as it is.

Quorum is discussed. The current attendance number to get to quorum is flat at 100. This was made a rule in the first place because it had been difficult to get attendance when the University Senate meetings were exclusively in-person. A discussion ensues on what being



present means in term of online attendance. A discussion ensues on people who attend and count towards quorum, yet do not vote. This gets tricky when the number of people voting is under the quorum. Should quorum be changed? Should it be a fraction of the people who complete the AEC survey? Something else? Other suggestions are raised. A suggestion is made that those in SACUA, Senate Assembly, and Senate Assembly Committees be added up and then a portion of that be used to determine quorum.

Point 4 of section 4 is discussed briefly. A discussion of communication via electronic media ensues. The review of Section 4 is considered complete at this time.

Action: Discussion

1:57pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office