



## **Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP) Minutes for 2/25/26 Meeting**

### **Meeting information:**

Circulated: 3/20/2026

Approved: 3/27/2026

Members present: Ken Alfano, Sun-Yung Bak, Audrey Bennett, Jonathan Brennan (Chair), James Gulvas, Neil Marsh, Mitchel Sollenberger

Members absent: Howard Bromberg, Lynette Hoelter, Nick Montgomery, David Potter

Faculty Senate Office staff present: Eric Vandenberghe

### **Minutes:**

#### **3:01pm-3:03pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements**

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the January meeting are approved.

#### **3:03pm-3:20pm: Proposal for a Faculty Senate Institute for Academic Freedom**

Summary: Prior to the meeting FSO Director McCarthy shared a proposal for a faculty senate institute for academic freedom with the committee. This proposal was submitted recently to apply for funds set aside for the Strategic Initiative Fund. The Chair asks the committee for their initial thoughts on this document.

A member posits that the proposal has a slant that provides a particular viewpoint and that the proposal would have a better chance of initial and sustained funding if it included a more balanced viewpoint. The committee proceeds to discuss several aspects of concern regarding academic freedom on campus over the last few years.

A member discusses the funding ask and suggests that more funding be requested. The current budget is not going to be sufficient to purchase enough faculty time to have the robust impact that is desired. A member asks if the faculty rotate on an annual basis. If that is the case, there will be a learning curve each year that will slow the progress of the work. Members agree that more money will likely be necessary. Members discussed how the FSO can collaborate with the Development Office to sustain this type of work.

A member discusses a desire for one of the authors of the proposal to speak with the committee to provide further feedback.

Action: Discussion

#### **3:20pm-3:38pm: Bylaws: Right to request information from leadership?**

Summary: The committee reviews Section 4.06 of the regent's bylaws that defines the Senate Assembly Organization. This section defines the relationship between



Administration leadership and the faculty.

The committee proceeds to talk through the ideal language for this section. A member discusses that information sharing should be more of a two-way endeavor. The committee members proceed to workshop the language. This new language will be shared with SACUA for their consideration in the committee's year-end report.

Action: Discussion

**3:38pm-3:55pm: Bylaws: Advisory capacity beyond VP offices?**

Summary: Currently the Faculty Senate advises and interacts with Central Administration. The Chair asks if there should be expanded interaction with unit-level committees and leadership. A member asks if there is capacity within the Faculty Senate to interact with all Deans and executive committees. Committee work would need to be restructured. For executive committees, a member suggests requiring one member of faculty senate to serve on each committee. A member discusses how this structure operates on the Dearborn campus.

Members discuss how members of these committees view their role. A member discusses power dynamics with units and indicates how favoritism comes into play when elevating faculty to leadership roles. The member further states the need for oversight. Members discuss the need for shared governance. After further discussion on this matter, the meeting concludes.

Action: Discussion

**3:55pm: Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe  
Faculty Governance Coordinator  
Faculty Senate Office