

University Senate Chair Report
October 28th, 2025

Hi All,

Welcome to week 10! Hard to believe, isn't it? I hope your classes are going well and that you are settling into the fall season. I'm a big fan of football and Halloween, but I'll pass on the pumpkin spice lattes. Regular 'ol black coffee for me!

I attended the GI 2025 conference in Los Angeles two weeks ago and had a great experience bonding with our local cohort, which included Ravin Craig, Patrick Orona, Michael Le, Chrissy Holliday, and Michael Spagna. I think we represented Cal Poly Humboldt really well. I also had the opportunity to meet in person with some of my fellow Senate Chair counterparts from our sister campuses, and it was delightful to revel in our shared experiences balancing chair duties, teaching classes, doing research with students, and doing our best to maintain a healthy work-life balance. There was a lot of data presented on GI 2025 metrics, as well as a future program putting student success at the front and center. Some of these ideas that were floated and discussed, I am really, genuinely excited about. At the first Senate meeting next semester, I intend to give a presentation summarizing some of the data that was shared, as well as the initiatives being put forward by the Chancellor's Office. I believe we have a real opportunity to shine with what they are proposing, as there is a large focus on experiential learning, which I think we are so good at here at Humboldt. More on this to come!

Advising and registration season is upon us. We have a new version of the DARS planner out, and there are several training sessions on that this week and next. Please make sure to attend one of these sessions (an email was sent out with dates and registration links) and reach out to your advisees to schedule meetings.

We have a large number of curricular items to discuss and approve for the remainder of the semester, many of which affect a good number of faculty across several different departments. Many of these are large curricular program proposals related to the polytechnic build-out (The Big 5, as the ICC has been referring to them as). I realize the development of these new polytech programs and the timing of getting them approved has been fast, much faster than our normal calendar for developing and approving these types of large programs. We do need to get these approved by semester's end due to calendar restrictions and requirements from the Chancellor's Office. So, for the remaining three Senate meetings of the semester (yes, only three!), we will discuss and vote on these items. A draft version of the meetings on November 18th and December 9th has been made, which also includes some of these large curricular items. We will pause on information items and presentations to allow ample time for discussion and voting on these important items. If you anticipate any issues with these program proposals, sticking points, questions, concerns, etc., please reach out to the relevant folks right away. The ICC has done a fantastic job of including relevant stakeholders, but not everyone can attend ICC meetings, and sometimes it is difficult to engage with a committee's activities offline. That being said, I'm super impressed with the efficiency and hard work the ICC has done, and they have modeled shared governance very well.

As we engage in our discussion and voting items for the remainder of the semester, let's do so with an open mind, let's listen to each other, and let's give each other the benefit of the doubt that we all want the same thing: for our university to grow into this Polytech thing with our unique Humboldt flavor and for our students to be successful!

Have a great week, everyone, and Happy Halloween, and ¡Feliz Día de los Muertos!

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