

University Senate Chair Report

November 18, 2025

Hi Folks,

I hope your day off last week for Veterans' Day was restful. We honor the courage and sacrifice of all who have served. Thank you, Veterans, for your commitment to our nation and our freedoms.

Like many of you, I am sure, advising and registration season has made me exceptionally busy, but in a good way. I really look forward to meeting with my advisees, especially those who are close to graduating, and I thoroughly enjoy discussing their plans after graduation, be it grad school, a job, or just life in general. It truly is an uplifting experience to witness our students consider life after graduation, ponder what it will be like to pursue their dream job, or get into a professional school that they never thought possible. How lucky are we that we get to be a part of that!? Pretty lucky! That being said, if you've been experiencing hardships with the new DARS planner, you are not alone. Hang in there, I'm confident the bugs will get worked out, and we will be better for it. In the meantime, save often, and don't get too frustrated.

You may have noticed in the most recent callout for faculty nominations and elections that we are hiring two high-level administrative positions: (1) Chief Financial Officer/VP for Administration & Finance and (2) VP of University Advancement. I'm excited to report that we will be following the very recently approved MPP Hiring Policy developed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Those search committees will have 3 faculty representatives each, and you may self-nominate or nominate someone you think will be a good fit. Please reach out to Jorge Monteiro, Chair of the Appointments and Elections Committee, right away if you are interested. This is going to be a great opportunity to put our shared governance to the test as we look to permanently fill these oh-so-important positions.

We have three of the "Big 5" polytech programs up for discussion and voting today: Critical Agriculture, Applied Humanities, and Health and Medical Sciences. These are big, big programs, with lots of moving parts, and affect multiple entities across the campus. I'm particularly excited about these items because I think they are proposing some very cool curricular things for our university, controversial, expensive things, yes, but cool all of the same. As we engage in these discussions, let's keep those Senate norms and expectations close and be mindful of how much work has been put into vetting these items to get them to the Senate floor.

Speaking of the Senate norms and expectations, I'm rolling out a new version of these for our meeting today (and if you are following the agenda linearly, we likely already read them). These are intended to keep our meetings running smoothly for both Senators and guests. A previous Senate body created this document originally, which I quite like, so keeping the spirit of this document intact, I find important. You'll see that there are a few pragmatic articles added to make our rules and expectations clear for Senators and guests, which are derived directly from our bylaws, as well as some desescalation training that SenEx participated in earlier in the semester.

Okay, folks, have a great week, and stay dry!

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