

University Senate Chair Report
March 24, 2026

Hi Folks,

I hope you had a restful spring break! I know not everyone in the University Senate has spring break, so I hope the campus was calm and relaxing. We're halfway through the semester, and after spending time with my sister, brother-in-law, niece, and nephew, in Hawai'i of all places, I certainly feel ready to finish out this second half strong!

We have some important milestones coming up in the near future, and the big one on many folks' minds is our WSCUC accreditation visit running April 15-17. Please hold your calendars for a Senate visit with the accreditation team on April 15 from 3:30–4:15 PM. An invitation will be forthcoming. Additionally, you may have received a message from our WSCUC leadership team (Shawna Young, Heather Madar, and Mark Wicklund) about reviewing the slide deck to be presented at today's meeting. I hope you all will take the time, or have already taken the time, to review those slides and be ready for questions and discussion at our meeting today.

Progress continues on our Policy Modernization project. If you recall, we determined that an in-house solution would not do everything we want according to the project's goals; therefore, we will be moving forward with PolicyStat. The team met before spring break and made some decisions on key metadata that we will identify in our existing policies and how to best organize that data. Our next big step, which I am very excited for, will be test-driving PolicyStat with some software representatives. I expect we will roll this out next fall and get some training for those who engage with policies the most, likely the Senate Executive Committee and other key staff. I will report out on this once I have more information, after I have been trained myself.

Lecturers, please consider nominating yourself (or someone you think will be a good fit) for the ASCSU lecturer pool. We need to have nominees for the ASCSU by Thursday, March 26th. Yikes! That is coming up way too fast, so please reach out to anyone you know ASAP. Thanks very much! I would be happy to answer any questions about this service role. Additionally, our ASCSU senators (Stephanie Burkhalter and Mary Virnoche) would be more than happy to answer any questions about this as well.

We are cooking in the search committee for the VP of Administration/CFO. I know there are a lot of other search committees going on right now, so I hope ya'll be productive as well. There are a lot of moving parts to do this, according to our new MPP Hiring Policy, but I'm very grateful we are following this policy, as complicated as it is. The shared governance model we are exhibiting by doing this is really amazing work, and I'm inspired by everyone taking it seriously and following the letter of the law to a T! Great work, everyone.

Last, I want to give a general shout-out to my committee chairs. Everyone is demonstrating some really excellent leadership and self-motivation, and I've been really impressed with the reports on things ya'll are doing. Bravo!

Best

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