

University Senate Chair Report
April 13, 2026

Hi Folks,

Well, this is the week we've all been waiting for! The WSCUC site visit will start on Wednesday, April 15, and run through Friday, the 17th. As a reminder, we have a Senate-specific time certain with the accreditation team on the 15th at 3:45 PM in NHE 102. Please do your best to attend and engage in the discussion. I hope everyone can attend the various open forums on the 16th: staff from 8:15–9 AM in the Great Hall, students from 12:40–1:45 PM in the Native American Forum, and faculty from 2–2:45 PM in the Great Hall. Again, please make your best effort to attend and engage. I want to acknowledge all the hard work that has gone into leading up to this event, and I'm crossing my fingers that everything goes smoothly! Thanks to everyone who has been involved.

I'd also like to take some time to acknowledge that I messed up the ASCSU lecturer pool nomination process. We did not receive any nominations after the first call-out, and I did not build in enough time to get names for a second round of nominations by the ASCSU's deadline. So, I asked the Appointments and Elections Committee (AEC) to make an appointment from the folks who were nominated in the second round instead of opening up a voting poll, which would have placed us after the deadline. So, to everyone who nominated someone in the second round, thanks very much, and I apologize that we did not run a proper election.

Things continue to move forward with our Policy Modernization Project. Next week, the team will receive a demo of PolicyStat from the developers, and I'm pretty excited to see how the program works. We've identified areas in which our policy approval process has some pitfalls, and I'm hopeful that PolicyStat can solve these through automation. We are also looking into migrating the Faculty Handbook, a clunky document that is a combination of 18 different PDF files, into PolicyStat as well. More on this in the coming weeks!

Things also continue to move forward with the various search committees we have going on. Expect to see some candidates for on-campus interviews very soon for the VP of Administrative Affairs/CFO position. I'm very grateful that we continue to operate, to the letter, under the new MPP Hiring Policy and, while it has us all very busy, it's a good thing.

Last, and certainly not least, our remaining three Senate meetings will be packed with Resolutions (voting items). We have several 1st readings today, which will translate into 2nd readings (assuming everything goes smoothly) in the coming weeks. Additionally, we have some voting items today. As always, I ask members to be collegial, open for dialogue, and understand that while we may not agree on everything, a healthy assumption for a democratic society, we may do so with care, integrity, and a small dose of humor, which is always helpful, in my opinion, when engaging in complex issues.

Let's have a great week, folks. It's a big one with the WSCUC visit going on!

Best

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