

University Senate Chair Report
May 12, 2026

Hi Folks,

Well, we made it to the last Senate meeting of the year! Congratulations! I want to acknowledge our outgoing Senators and Committee Chairs and welcome our new Senator. We will do this later today at the Senate reception; however, I wanted to make sure these acknowledgements are captured for the archives.

To our outgoing Senators: Jayne McGuire, Rouhollah Aghasaleh, Eduardo Cruz, and Stephanie McKindley, thanks so much for your service. Your contributions to the University Senate have been valuable, and I really appreciate all the times you dared to dissent. It takes courage to stand up for what is right, even if it is unpopular to do so. Keep fighting the good fight!

To our outgoing Committee Chairs: Tyler Evans, Jayne McGuire, Rouhollah Aghasaleh, and Sulaina Banks, thanks so much for your leadership. Leading is not easy, and sometimes it feels like trying to nail Jell-O to the wall. I really appreciate you all stepping up and hope to work with you again in the future.

To our incoming Senator: Humnath Punta, welcome! I hope this journey is exciting, educational, and that you can find your way through this crazy path we call shared governance.

And to all of you who are continuing along next year, I say thanks! We are all of us busy in our mission to educate the next generation, regardless of the division, department, or college you find yourself working in. Taking the time to participate in this University Senate and making this place we call home better through shared governance is a noble cause, and I applaud all of you for taking the time to do so.

Wrapping up the end of the year here, we do have some important business to take care of today with four resolutions to consider and some important end-of-the-year reports; however, I hope all of you can attend the Senate Reception tonight in the Kate Buchanan Room from 5:00–8:00 PM to celebrate the folks I mentioned above, as well as our distinguished faculty award winners and ERFSA grant winners.

No new updates on PolicyStat, other than that, I will be working with the team over the summer to make sure the integration of our current policies goes smoothly and that we are ready for a training session during the first week back, before classes start. Speaking of that week, I'd like to hold an informal training session/crash course on "How to do Senate," and I would be delighted to see as many participants there as possible, even you veterans out there are welcome to attend to provide insights for our new Senators, or even for our continuing Senators that may need a refresher. I will be sending out a poll very soon for scheduling; I know there is a lot going on that week before classes, so I want to make sure we schedule this to maximize attendance.

Last, and certainly not least, I'm very excited for our Graduation Ceremonies. It's one of my favorite times of the year, and with the way we are ramping up the celebration with performances around the campus, as was done in the past few ceremonies, please enjoy the day, celebrate our students and their accomplishments. Celebrate each other and our own accomplishments!

It has been an honor serving as your Senate Chair this year, and I look forward to another one next academic year. I hope you all have a lovely summer break, get all the rest you need, and are ready to come back fully charged and inspired to lead another group of students across the victory line!

Best

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