

University Senate Chair Report

September 1, 2026

Hi Folks,

Welcome back to another fantastic year! I hope you had a relaxing summer and are ready to get back into the swing of things. I had a great summer working in my yard: building a fence, planting grass and trees, and enjoying that lovely Cutten Sunshine. That being said, I'm excited to be back and continue serving in this role, and I appreciate your support. We have a lot of great things to look forward to this year, and I hope you are feeling recharged and inspired. Let's get to work!

Last spring, my ITS project request, "Policy Management Modernization," was approved, and we did a good amount of the heavy lifting this summer. If you recall, we started the project by exploring in-house solutions to modernize our current policy database. To us, modernization means being able to search our policy database by various metadata qualifiers, like the responsible office, expiration date, committee of origin, etc. Additionally, modernization means being able to track the progress of a new policy with questions such as: Whose turn is it to look at the document? Who has already looked at the document? Did it get approved by the correct office? And so forth. In our preliminary research, we found many policies with errors, such as the wrong versions posted to the website, guidelines interpreted as policy, and, in a handful of cases, old policies ratified by a previous Senate but never approved by the President's office. Clearly, we need to improve the way we manage policies. Thus, we decided to move forward with acquiring PolicyStat, an industry-leading policy management program used by the Chancellor's Office and several other CSU campuses. Thus, in collaboration with the University Policies Committee (UPC) and the project team (Sulaina Banks, Patrick Malloy, Courtney Loder, and me), we began the initial migration steps last spring and through the summer. The UPC, in a heroic effort, organized some 139 active policies into an organized spreadsheet capturing all that lovely metadata I mentioned. The project team then copy/pasted all of these policies as Google documents, stripped down of all formatting details, in accordance with initial directions for PolicyStat migration. During this copy/past session, which took place in June, we verified all metadata and that the correct versions were being used. It was a massive control-c/control-v party! Due to some hiccups with funding, we had to pause the project; however, as I understand it, those funding issues have been resolved, and we will be proceeding with the migration this fall, which leads me to my next topic: the roster!

We still have not been able to find a UPC chair, who must be a Senator and will also serve on the Senate Executive Committee (SenEx). I expect the workload for this position will be lighter than last year after Sulaina's above-and-beyond efforts on this policy modernization project; however, I am really looking for a UPC chair who wants to continue engaging with policy management modernization. I realize it may sound intimidating, even in a regular year; however, this is actually how I got my start in the Senate 4 years ago. At the time, Chair Mola needed someone to serve as UPC Chair, and the CNRS Senate representative seat was vacant. He asked me to serve, and I rose to the occasion. I had never been a Senator, but I had served as the GEAR committee chair, so I rolled my sleeves up and got to work. Little did I know that jumping straight into an important position like that would inspire me to become Senate Chair one day. I tell you all of this in hopes that it may inspire one of you to step up and lead a committee and serve on SenEx. You will have a direct opportunity to work with campus leadership and advocate for what's important to you and your microcosm of campus. Thanks so much for your consideration!

UPC Chair position doesn't sound right for you? Well, I've got great news, because we also need a Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC) Chair. This position must also be held by a Senator; however, you do not have to serve on SenEx. I expect the workload for this position to be lighter than it was in previous years due to, once again, an above-and-beyond effort by the previous chair, Rouhollah Aghasaleh. They redefined

how this committee operates, and I'm so proud of their creation of Committee Oversight through the Committee on Committees (which you would also chair, being the CBC Chair) and our new MPP Hiring Policy, which has already had a significant impact on how we hire upper-level management positions. Continuing down this path that Rouhollah so thoughtfully laid out should be straightforward and will provide another opportunity to advocate for what you think is important to this campus.

Both of those leadership positions may be filled by current Senators; however, we also have two vacant Senate seats available. Those are a one-year position filling in for Cindy Moyer's CAHSS seat and a two-year position replacing Jayne McGuire's tenure-line at-large seat. So, if you know anyone willing to jump straight into it, as I did (I mean... it wasn't that bad, and I'm still alive to tell the tale, plus I only got like 5 gray hairs in the process), please nominate (and convince) them. Nominations are due by Tuesday, September 8th, and you may email the University Senate Office and the Appointments and Elections (AEC) Chair at senate@humboldt.edu and jorge.monteiro@humboldt.edu.

Oh yeah, we also need a Parliamentarian, who does not have to be a Senator, and this will also put you on the CBC. I did this position once; it was fun, and if you are a nerd like me who likes to watch CSPAN occasionally and enjoys interpreting weird rules in a fun, relaxed, totally non-judgmental, accepting place such as our University Senate, this is the position for you! Where is my Alice Sturgis fan club at? I know you're out there!

Alrighty folks, those are my first report highlights; we have a whole bunch of other stuff we are working on, so please come to Senate, or better yet, become a Senator, and find out!

Thanks so much for your service,

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