

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Report on Interpretation of Bylaws Section 11.34 (URPC Duties)

The University Senate has asked the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to interpret the duties and charge of the University Resources Planning Committee (URPC). In accordance with Section 10.0 of the University Senate Constitution, the CBC presents this interpretation to the Senate for approval.

The CBC focused our interpretation on 11.34.i which reads: "The Committee shall make recommendations to the Senate and, within the policy guidelines established by the Senate, advise the President and appropriate administrative officers concerning the allocation of university resources and general budget policy."

The CBC interprets this duty as follows: the URPC is directed to make its recommendations on resource allocation and budget to the Senate. URPC recommendations, following consideration and approval by the Senate, constitute the Senate's advice to the President and administrative officers.

We base this interpretation on the following: a) there are currently no policy guidelines established by the Senate to dictate the procedure for advising administrative officers; b) Section 10.77 of the Senate Bylaws states: "All Standing and Ad hoc committees shall report to the Senate..."; and c) Section 10.77.ii of the Senate Bylaws states: "When a committee forwards a policy recommendation or recommendation for action to the Senate, this recommendation shall be provided in the form of a resolution or accompanied by a resolution describing the recommended action(s)."

However, the CBC also recognizes the URPC's ability to provide recommendations to administrators prior to Senate approval as set out in Section 11.35.iii of the Senate Bylaws: "All recommendations made to administrative officers without prior Senate approval shall be submitted to the next meeting of the Senate following the recommendation for the consideration of the Senate."

Thus the URPC may notify administrators of their intended recommendations prior to consideration by the Senate. They are not formal recommendations of the Senate, though, until approved by the Senate. When URPC elects to make recommendations prior to Senate approval, a motion to ratify those recommendations must be taken up at the following Senate meeting.

This interpretation does not preclude the URPC from communicating intended recommendations to any members of the University community including administrative officers. Such communications can be distributed through the publishing of committee minutes and committee reports on the Senate website, through distribution to the University community at the discretion of the Senate Chair, or by encouraging comments from the University community through emails from the Senate Office.