

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
Senate Chair's Report
Senate Meeting, October 2, 2018

Senate Chair report

The Senate Executive Committee met on September 25, 2018. In response to Senator Dunk's request at the last Senate meeting, we discussed changing the deadline for reports from standing committees to Fridays at noon rather than Mondays at noon, so that senators would have a greater amount of time to read those reports before the Senate meeting on Tuesday. Several standing committees have scheduled meetings on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Chairs expressed that they need the weekend to complete their reports. Members of the committee indicated that it was important to have written reports reflect the most recent actions of the standing committees (rather than delaying reports of actions almost two weeks until the next Senate meeting), and the committee agreed that the current practice of submitting reports to Mary Watson by noon on Mondays will remain in place.

A concern about implementation of the eLearning policy (P#17-04) was brought to the Senate Executive Committee by Senator Virnoche. Now that CEEGE has been reorganized, it is not clear who oversees on-line curriculum and how faculty development of on-line materials will be negotiated and compensated. The committee agreed that the eLearning policy needs to be revised, but it is not clear which subunits will oversee eLearning curriculum development and delivery. Interim Vice-Provost Braithwaite suggested, and the chair of the ICC, Julie Alderson, concurred, that the Subcommittee on Academic Master Planning of the ICC should review the eLearning policy with the goal of making a recommendation for revising the structure of oversight of eLearning curriculum and delivery. The Academic Policies Committee, from which the current eLearning policy originated, will likely review the policy after the AMP subcommittee and consider the subcommittee's recommendations in formulating a revised policy.

Many faculty members received an email communication from the Academic Career and Advising Center (ACAC) indicating that it is the responsibility of the faculty advisor to conduct intrusive advising for students on academic probation. This appears to be a change in practice and faculty were not consulted about it. I met with Faculty Affairs Committee Chair, Monty Mola, and he reached out to Kathy Thornhill, Director of the ACAC, to find out more about changes in advising practices, especially as they pertain to increasing faculty workload. The Academic Policies Committee is in the process of developing an advising policy for the campus, and it is important that during this process the administrative side of advising and the faculty side of advising remain on the same page, especially regarding responsibilities and workload. Based on Director Thornhill's response to Chair Mola's inquiry, gaps in institutional capacity for advising exist and questions regarding division of workload and responsibilities between staff advisors and faculty advisors persist. These institutional capacity and workload issues will need to be addressed to achieve student retention and timely graduation goals of advising.