

**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Senate Chair's Report**  
**Senate Meeting, February 26, 2019**

I would like to extend warm thanks to Fernando Paz, Coordinator of the Latinx Center for Academic Excellence, and Stephanie Cierra Rodas, A.S. Social Justice and Equity Officer, for providing their time and expertise to facilitate the discussion today on what it means to be a thriving Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Many thanks also to Dr. Edy Reynoso, Associate Director, and Dr. Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, for working collaboratively with the Senate to make this conversation possible today.

On Friday, February 22, 2019, President Rossbacher sent back to the Senate for revision the Academic Integrity and Honesty Policy that was passed in Resolution 02-18/19-APC on December 4, 2018. I thank President Rossbacher for her careful reading of the policy and detailed comments. The policy has been referred to Academic Policies Committee.

When the Senate Executive Committee met on Tuesday, February 19, the Committee considered how to proceed for the first reading of 09-18/19-FAC Resolution on Amendments to Appendix J "Definitions of Terms and Abbreviations" & "Assessment of the Areas of Performance for RTP". After the February 12 meeting of the Senate, I explained in an email to senators that there are two different descriptions in guiding documents regarding how changes to Appendix J -----are to be recommended by the Senate to the General Faculty. Section XI.B of Appendix J states that "Amendments may be proposed either by a majority vote of the University Senate or by a petition signed by 10 percent of the members of the General Faculty." Section 6.51 of the University Senate Constitution states that the function of a faculty session of the Senate "shall be to express the collective voice of the faculty or to execute faculty responsibilities such as the approval of the graduation list or other responsibilities specific to the faculty such as changes to Appendix J in the Faculty Handbook. It may make determinations regarding any issue specific to faculty responsibilities. Only faculty senators may vote during a faculty session".

Since Appendix J is titled, "Faculty Personnel Policies and Procedures for Retention, Tenure and Promotion" and applies only to faculty, it seems logical that proposed changes to it would be discussed in faculty session of the Senate; yet doing so today would contradict the procedure described in Section XI.B of Appendix J, which authorizes a majority vote of the University Senate to recommend changes to Appendix J. Senator K. Malloy brought to our attention that the last time Appendix J, Section XI, was amended was on April 26, 2016, in a resolution brought to the Senate by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (Resolution 25-15/16 CBC). This resolution states, "That the University Senate recommends the following amendments to Appendix J of the Faculty Handbook," and Section XI.B with track changes does not indicate there was an intent to change "majority vote of the University Senate" to a majority vote of a faculty session of the University Senate. This is so even as the resolution proposed other changes to Appendix J, XI.B. Further, as the minutes from the meeting show, the meeting did not move into faculty session and non-faculty senators voted on the resolution.

The process followed the precedent resolution on April 26, 2016, reflects what Appendix J, Section XI.B describes and the SenEx Committee recommends the Senate use this process today to consider the first reading of 09-18/19-FAC. A process that involves voting by all senators might feel inappropriate to some faculty, given that the content of Appendix J only applies to faculty. There is no absolutely correct interpretation to be derived, but the process as described in Appendix J, Section XI is much more explicit as to the will of the general faculty in making changes to its own documents, and there is a precedent from April 2016 that recommends amendments in accordance with what is described in Appendix J,

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Section XI. Moving forward, SenEx Committee will consider asking the Faculty Affairs Committee to create a resolution to amend Appendix J, Section XI.B to indicate that a majority vote in a faculty session of the Senate is necessary to recommend amendments to Appendix J. The rationale for this resolution is that this change is necessary to make the amendment process of Appendix J consistent with the description of faculty responsibilities carried out in faculty session the University Senate Constitution, section 6.51. If approved by the Senate, it could be possible to make this change by vote of the General Faculty this semester. Please let me know your thoughts about a resolution that would make explicit within Appendix J, section XI.B that changes to Appendix J will be recommended by a majority vote of a faculty session of the University Senate.