

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
Senate Chair's Report
Senate Meeting, September 17, 2019

Our formal agenda for today's meeting is short, but much has been going on behind the scenes, which will help determine the formal agenda moving forward.

Senator George Wrenn, who had been elected as a non-instructional faculty senator for a three-year term beginning Fall 2020, has resigned his Senate seat (as a result a special election of the general faculty will be held to fill the non-instructional faculty seat in the upcoming weeks). Upon close review of Senate documents, he realized that by running for his third full term he had violated the following provision in the University Senate Constitution

The term of office for an elected member shall be three Senate years. An elected member shall serve no more than two consecutive complete terms. Service for a partial term or for terms served as an ex-officio member shall not be included in this calculation. So far as feasible, Senate terms shall be arranged so that approximately one-third of the membership is elected annually.

With his resignation from his Senate seat, George is no longer eligible to chair the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC), so the position of chair remains open. If any staff or faculty senator would like to volunteer to serve as chair during this academic year, please let me know. Subsequent to his resignation from the senate seat, George volunteered to serve on the CBC in one of the faculty seats that remained open after no nominations were received this year. As a faculty member appointed to the seat, he will be able to continue the work on the Faculty Handbook revisions and will serve as Chair 'pro tempore' at the meetings (assuming no new CBC Chair steps forward). Jeff Abell, Senate Parliamentarian, had been serving as a faculty representative on the CBC, but since the Parliamentarian holds an ex-officio seat on the CBC and he can participate in meetings via holding that office, Jeff resigned from his faculty seat to allow Senator Jim Woglom to self-nominate for appointment to serve. Senator Woglom will be able to report out to Senate on behalf of the committee in case no permanent replacement is found for CBC chair.

During the discussion at Senate Executive Committee meeting, it was suggested that the Appointments and Elections Committee (AEC) should have the responsibility to certify candidates' eligibility for election. This work has been taken on over the past few years by the Senate Office, in addition to much of the other work surrounding calls for elections, determining election and appointment procedures, certifying results of elections and appointments, and posting those results on the Senate Website. The charge of the AEC in the Senate By-laws and Rules of Procedure might be too vague to provide clear direction regarding duties, and currently the committee is not expected to meet regularly (it routinely handles business via email). Further, section 12.1 in the Senate Bylaws and Rules of Procedure states that "General operational procedures for elections conducted by the University Senate Office shall be outlined in a separate document, 'Election Rules and Procedures,' developed and maintained by the Appointments and Elections Committee and made available through the Senate Office". This document was never created, and since provisions for elections and appointments exist in the General Faculty Constitution, Senate Constitution and Senate Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, it is often labor-intensive to collect information and execute the correct procedure for different types of elections and

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appointments. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is also concerned that there is conflicting information regarding specific types of elections across documents.

The Chair of Appointments and Elections Committee, Brandice Gonzalez-Guerra, has called a face-to-face meeting of AEC for this week. I am an ex-officio member of AEC and I will explain some of the issues that have emerged. In the meantime, working from a draft created by Mary Watson, Senate ASC, the CBC committee will take a first pass at creating the Elections Rules and Procedures document, with the understanding that some resolutions amending founding documents might need to be passed by Senate in order to make the elections processes consistent across documents. Once this draft is created, the Appointments and Elections Committee will review it and make its recommendations. Next steps will then be determined by Senate Executive Committee in consultation with CBC and AEC.

The University Community seems eager to discuss enrollment. After VP Meriwether's presentation at last Senate, he received several follow-up questions, and he thanked Senate for scheduling time for him to present, which he said opened up important conversations we need to have this year. As his schedule allows, he intends to take part as an ex-officio senator in upcoming Senate meetings. When I asked for suggestions regarding future themes for "coffee & conversation" with President Jackson, enrollment was a theme offered by a few people. I'm not quite sure how this thematic informal conversation will occur, and I'm working with the President's office on structure and times. If you are interested in participating, watch for an upcoming invitation.

Regarding the budget discussion from last Senate meeting, there will be additional opportunities to become educated on and discuss concerns about the budget; the presentation given by Budget Director Blakeslee at 9/4/19 Senate was mainly aimed at educating senators on the state of the budget given state/CSU system fiscal appropriations mid-summer and Fall 2019 student enrollment numbers (actuals and census projections). One idea that has been posited is to ask Budget Director Blakeslee to return to Senate for a presentation on spending (actuals), cash and reserves. I ask that senators share with me, but also reach out to URPC co-chairs Provost Alex Enyedi and Senator Jim Woglom to express, your budget presentation/discussion needs. A great deal of budget information, including reports and current dashboards, can be found at the University Budget Office [page](#).

Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, Lisa Castellino, provided the Senate Executive Committee with an abridged presentation of the results of the Great Colleges to Work For survey that was deployed in Spring 2019. The quantitative results are organized by five campus groups: upper-level administrators, exempt staff, non-exempt staff, lecturer faculty (called adjuncts by the survey) and tenure-line faculty. AVP Castellino envisions offering at least two forums during which the results of the survey will be presented in more detail and participants will have structured opportunities to discuss them. One model for these forums is the presidential search pre-forum co-facilitated by me and Cyril Oberlander, Dean of the Library, last Spring.