Policy Recommendation
Committee Obligations & Senate Membership
(modification of bylaw 1.6.2)

Legislative History: Modification of existing By-law 1.6.2

Whereas: The full engagement of senators in committee assignments is inextricably linked to their participation on the senate, and

Whereas: Senate by-laws clearly establish expectations and standards for attendance, and

Whereas: The primary responsibilities of the senate have been and remain the development of policy recommendations which requires the participation of senators on assigned committees, and

Whereas: Clarification regarding the connection between committee responsibilities and senate service is needed, therefore be it

Resolved: That Senate bylaw 1.6.2 be modified as noted in this policy recommendation.

Rationale: Upon election to the senate, each senator is assigned to a policy committee. In fact, by senate bylaws (6.10) the senate seeks to make appointments so that at least half of the members are members of the Senate.

Without the full participation of senators on senate-assigned committees, the senate cannot effectively fulfill its primary responsibility which is the consideration and development of policy recommendations. Senators not meeting their committee obligations are neglecting their Senate responsibilities and replacement of a senator in such circumstances is in the best interests of the Senate.

Approved: 3/1/16
Vote: 9-0-0
Present: Mathur, Shifflett, Beyersdorf, Becker, Laker, Curry, Grosvenor, Romero, Gleixner
Absent: None
Financial Impact: None expected
Workload Impact: No changes

Recommended changes:

1.6.2

a) Vacancies are created by
1) resignation or recall from the Senate,
2) termination of employment,
3) removal from the senate as a result of being absent from 3 Senate meetings in an academic year,
4) removal from a policy committee as a result of being absent from 3 regularly scheduled policy committee meetings,
5) removal from a policy committee due to failure to perform assigned policy committee duties as determined by the Executive Committee of the Senate in consultation with the policy committee chair,
6) leave, with or without pay, which covers more than one semester,
7) appointment to a full-time administrative (Management Personnel Plan) position,
8) assumption of the role of Academic Senate Chair, or
9) no candidate files for a vacant seat

b) When a Senate seat is vacated, the associated seat on that senator’s assigned policy committee would become vacant.