Committee: Senate Affairs
Chair: Debra Friedman
Members: Karen Bloch, Eric Grogan, Leonard Folgarait, Kelsey Hatzell, Julia Phillippi, Robert Miller, Marcy Signer Gabella
EC Liaison: Catherine McTamaney

Committee Description: To be concerned with all matters pertaining to the functioning of the Senate. Responsible for a continuing review of the Rules of the Faculty Senate, recommending new rules when appropriate, and assisting in the interpretation of existing rules. Considers proposed revisions of the Constitution of the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate when this duty is assigned by the Senate.

Committee Charges

Electronic Faculty Senate Meetings
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Faculty Senate could not meet in person. This required a constitutional amendment to allow electronic meetings. A motion was developed by the Senate Affairs Committee for such an amendment and after all required parliamentary procedures, this was passed by the full senate. The Senate proceeded with electronic meetings for this academic year.

Reapportionment
In the 2019 – 2020 Year three motions were brought to the Faculty Senate

- **Motion 1** – Separate Recognition of School of Medicine Clinical Departments and School of Medicine Basic Sciences Departments
- **Motion 2** – Reapportionment to Increase Senate Size to 66 Senators
- **Motion 3** – Increase the Minimum Number of Senators from 2 to 3

These motions were reported to be passed February 6, 2020. However, written notice for these to the Faculty Assembly at least one month before the vote was not obtained for these three motions. In addition, proposed changes in the composition of the Senate shall become effective only after adoption by the majority of the Senate voting membership and this was not obtained for Motions 2 and 3. Therefore, the Senate Affairs Committee this year, developed a motion to rescind all the above motions and developed two new motions in their place.

- **Motion 1** – Increase the Minimum Number of Senators from 2 to 3
- **Motion 2** – Reapportionment to Increase Senate Size to 66 Senators

After required parliamentary procedures, these motions were brought to the full senate for a vote. Motion 1, to increase the minimum number of senators in each school from 2 to 3 was not passed and Motion 2, to increase the Senate size to 66 senators was passed.
Guidance for Deans for Reapportionment

Given the planned increase of total senators to 66, the Senate Affairs committee evaluated the impact of this change. It recommended that the additional new 6 senators not all be elected as first-year senators, as this would result in an imbalance of senators per year. Instead, the following recommendation was made to be conveyed to the Deans of the respective Schools for these new Senate positions in 2021.

- SOM and Peabody each elect one additional first year senator in 2021
- Engineering and Peabody each ask one current 2\textsuperscript{nd} year senator to stay on for two more years after 2021 (complete current term and then serve as interim for one additional year)
- SON and SOM each ask one current 3\textsuperscript{rd} year senator to stay on for one more year after 2021 (serve as an interim for one additional year upon completion of this year)

Left over issues recommended from last year

1. Review of individual motion to be reviewed by the EC in writing prior to the Senate Meeting to which it is to be submitted under New Business and is communicated by the EC to the Senate Membership rather than by the individual senator.

Discussion:

Reviewed the history of this motion and context provided from years past. We discussed the balance of providing some anonymity and support for the individual senator, bringing motions that have inherent issues that individual senators may not recognize and faculty freedom to bring up issues and ideas.

The current system appears to be working appropriately with the current rules:

A Senator or Standing Committee wishing to move under New Business shall communicate their proposed motions in writing to the Vice Chair of the Senate not less than 14 calendar days before the meeting at which the motion is to be made. The Executive Committee may provide a consultative role to the proposing Senator(s) to facilitate preparing the motion for presentation and debate. It shall be the responsibility of the Vice Chair of the Senate to communicate the proposed motion to the Senate membership at least 7 calendar days before the meeting at which it is to be proposed.

A Senator or Standing Committee desiring to make a motion which has not complied with the notification requirements in the Faculty Senate Rules of Order, Article III., Section D. 1. above may do so as “new business” from the floor of a Senate meeting upon recognition of the Chair, but the vote may not be taken until a subsequent voting meeting.

Consensus: We would not recommend a change at this time.

2. Evaluate timeline for Senators to review motions prior to voting meetings.

Discussion:

The point was raised that sometimes it is difficult to make the 7-day notice due to need for additional consultation. Overall, the current process, however, appears to work well.

Consensus: We would not recommend a change at this time.
3. Formalized practice for all schools to perform their Faculty Senator Elections.

**Discussion:**
We recognized that local flexibility among the different schools in the University is good and a formalized practice for all schools would likely not be in the best interest.

**Consensus:** We would not recommend a change at this time

4. Clarify and/or expand on when non-anonymous voting may take place.

**Discussion:**
We noted that this has not been an issue as the current rules stand:

Voting on matters before the Faculty Senate for routine matters such as approval of minutes or when a roll call is affected shall normally be by "ayes" and "nays" (voice vote or show of hands). All other voting shall be anonymous by either electronic means or by written ballot. [2015] A roll call vote may be requested by any five voting Senators and shall be instituted if approved by two-thirds of the voting members present, except in the election of officers, which shall always be by closed vote. In the event that a roll call vote is taken, the vote of each individual Senator shall be recorded by the Vice Chair in the minutes of that meeting. [2003] [2006]

**Consensus:** We would not recommend a change at this time.

5. In concert with the Vice Provost Office to formalize a plan for Senate Committee Chair Leadership training

**Discussion:**
Past training that has taken place, typically in person, this past year online. This happens within the capacity and oversight of the senate executive committee and thus utilizes those resources. Having additional administrative resources and perhaps development of training modules that would be more uniform could be helpful. However, in balance, given that the University has many competing priorities because of the pandemic, this would not be the most appropriate time to request additional resources.

**Consensus:** We would recommend holding this over and having the SAC re-address in the next academic year.