

Assessment of Current University Senate Knowledge

Information gathered from previous Senators during Governance Retreat 2010

Potential Issues to be Dealt With:

- Ensuring that all senators have an opportunity to report regularly to their Constituents.

Word to the Wise:

- Help constituents understand the process
- Build trust with constituents
- Remind constituents that they have power – this is not a “top down” process
- Help constituents understand that they’ve been heard, even if they didn’t get what they want.
- Senators should stay apprised of ALL standing committee business, not just their own.
- Be proactive
- Be accessible
- Be deliberative – don’t just champion an issue – bring issues up to have a public airing of them.
- Be mindful - Remember that your voice is that of your constituents, and they aren’t going to come to you – you need to go to them. Use good judgment.

Possible Issues/Suggestions:

- Start applying Robert’s Rules that provides a summary of the deliberation to accompany all motions/issues brought to the Senate floor. Probably should not be the minutes – it is an additional document as part of the motion supporting documents.
- Use the “Committee of the Whole” as necessary
- Consider creating a “database” of “Frequently Denied Motions” – issues that have already been dealt with but people don’t know they’ve been dealt with.
- Orient all faculty/students/staff to Senate operations/purview

Collaboration:

- Separate ECUS report about those issues that cross committees

Point of information:

- Safeguard in place – there are Presidential Appointees who are appointed because they listen, are involved and make good judgments. They are looking out for and committed to the University as a whole.