



**DATE:** March 23, 2023  
**FROM:** Kris. Bezdecny, Chair, Academic Senate Executive Committee  
**TO:** Academic Senate  
**CC:** R. Roquemoire  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Policy Modification: Committee Structure of the Academic Senate – Chapter II of the Faculty Handbook

The Senate Executive committee discussed and approved a modification to the Channels of Communication and Responsibility section of the policy on Committee Structure of the Academic Senate, based on a request from the ASCSU to review campus policies on [timely responses to campus Senate resolutions and policies](#). In conducting such a review, we realized we did not have a policy that stipulated how much time may pass between the passing of a policy by the Academic Senate and the President’s decision to sign or not sign that policy. Agreeing with the ASCSU that ignoring a duly approved and communicated policy recommendation ought not be a legitimate manner of responding. Setting a deadline of 60 days for the president to respond to a policy recommendation in one of the three ways delineated, means that the Senate’s recommendations will be acted on in a timely manner.

The Executive Committee recommends the following policy changes:

- Lines 35-43: Including a new step in the process that stipulates that the President shall have 60 calendar days, following the receipt of policy recommendations from the Senate, to make a decision on that recommendation. This allows time for the President to consult on the policy recommendations from the Senate and perform any additional research as necessary, while still requiring a time-boxed response. Inaction would lead to the policy being considered approved by the President, as no objections or recommendations by the President will have been raised toward the policy in a timely manner.
- Lines 38-40: Formalizes that policies returned unsigned should also include an explicit rationale, so that the Senate and its committees are aware of where the areas of disagreement between the Senate and the President exist, and what potential solutions may exist to achieve a meeting of the minds.

1 **Committee Structure of the Academic Senate**

2 (Senate: 2/6/64, 5/25/65, 10/13/66, 5/25/67, 1/14/75, 3/28/79, 2/10/81, 11/11/81, 1/5/82;  
3 President: 3/2/64, 6/14/65, 12/1/66, 6/12/67, 1/28/75, 4/24/79, 2/10/81, 11/18/82; Editorial  
4 Amendment: 9/00, 9/03)

5 **Philosophy.** The concept underlying the committee organization of the Academic Senate can be  
6 found in the following principles:

- 7 1. University-wide standing committees are agents of the Academic Senate.
- 8 2. University-wide standing committees are policy-recommending and advisory. They will  
9 have administrative support and personnel to ensure that ministerial functions growing  
10 out of policies are properly administered.
- 11 3. The standing committees will be supplemented by such ad hoc subcommittees as they  
12 find necessary.
- 13 4. College committees will be given a high degree of local autonomy and responsibility.
- 14 5. The term of office for faculty members of standing committees and subcommittees is  
15 three years, with the exception of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional  
16 Ethics, for which the term is five years, and committees which select recipients of  
17 awards, for which the term is one year maximum. The term of office for student members  
18 of the committee is one year. No person may serve concurrently on more than one of the  
19 following committees: Educational Policy Committee, Faculty Policy Committee, Fiscal  
20 Policy Committee, Student Policy Committee, and the Nominations Committee.
- 21 6. Administrators who serve by virtue of their positions within the University or who are  
22 appointed by the President to serve as Executive Secretary do so in an ex officio non-  
23 voting capacity on all standing committees and subcommittees of the Academic Senate,  
24 i.e. they do not make motions, vote, nor serve as chair.

25 **Channels of Communication and Responsibility.** The operational procedures established by  
26 the Senate for university-wide standing committees are as follows:

- 27 1. University-wide committees submit recommendations for the initiation of new university  
28 policy or changes in present policy to the Academic Senate and at the same time provide  
29 the President with a copy of these recommendations.
- 30 2. The President withholds action on such committee recommendations until the Academic  
31 Senate has reacted to these recommendations and presented in writing a specific  
32 recommendation to the President to accept the recommendations of a committee, to  
33 accept them with modifications, or to reject them. Copies of the minutes do not suffice to  
34 inform the President of Academic Senate recommendations.
- 35 3. UPON RECEIPT OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ACADEMIC  
36 SENATE, BOTH NEW POLICIES AND CHANGES TO EXISTING POLICY, THE  
37 PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE 60 CALENDAR DAYS TO ACCEPT, REJECT OR  
38 RETURN UNSIGNED, BUT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WOULD MAKE

39 THE SENATE'S RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTABLE, INCLUDING A  
40 RATIONALE FOR THE REQUESTED CHANGES. IF THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT  
41 ACCEPT, REJECT OR RETURN THE POLICY RECOMMENDATION WITHIN THE  
42 60 CALENDAR DAY TIME-LINE, THE RECOMMENDED POLICY WILL GO INTO  
43 AFFECT.

44 4. In all of their actions the Academic Senate, the university committees, the administration,  
45 and faculty organizations must act within the limits of state law, the rules of the Board of  
46 Trustees, ordinary concepts of academic freedom, and the statement "Academic Freedom,  
47 Professional Ethics, and Faculty Freedom" adopted by the Faculty Council on April 20,  
48 1961 and approved thereafter by the President, and any subsequent revisions of or  
49 amendments added thereto.