

University Senate
Special Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2021

Senators Present:

Minerva Ahumada, Suzanne Bost, Laura Brentner, Anthony Deldin, William Duffy, Eve Geroulis, Sarita Heer, Lee Hood, Patricia Lee, Joe Mitzenmacher, Wei Qui, Matthew Williams, Bill Adams, Tobyn Friar, Erla Dervishi, Matt Lorentz, Abby Abuya, Jonathan Okstad, Emily Barman, Thomas Kelly, Teresa Krafcisin, Justyna Canning (*ex. officio*), Tavis Jules (*ex. officio*), Mark Torrez (non-voting; will replace Sen. Adams in January)

Absent: Francis Alonzo, Jenna Drenten, Yvonne El Ashmawi, Leo Irakliotis, Selam Kashay, Anne Divita Kopacz, Kristin Krueger, Kevin Newman, Mereya Riopedre, Maria Wathen, Elani Williams, Margaret Callahan (*ex. officio*)

Quorum (21/33): Voting members present at start of meeting; quorum is **satisfied**.

Chair Heer called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

This meeting was called specifically to address questions about the role and makeup of the University Senate vis a vis the university's other shared governance bodies: Faculty Council, Staff Council, and student governing bodies (both undergraduate and graduate). This discussion has become urgent as the university's Shared Governance Task Force (SGTF) completes its work and finalizes its report.

Discussion on the function and makeup of the Senate:

- Sen. M. Williams stated that he sees the Senate as a place of regular dialogue between constituencies, combined with a coordinating function between groups. He sees value in more voices being heard, and suggested that the Senate could fill the role of finding compromise when there are different opinions among various constituencies on issues that affect all.
- Sen. Kelly said he leaned toward having fewer people on the Senate. He stated that he would like to see the Senate become more of a coordinating body, driving issues into the other constituency groups. As an example, with the university's smoking policy the Senate role was to make sure the policy was vetted among the various constituencies.
- Sen. Heer said the question to be decided would be where issues go first and how to know which group starts the process.
- Sen. Jules asked the question: "Do we need the Senate?" He suggested creating a coordinating council instead. "Do we want silos or true shared governance?" he asked. He said other institutions tend to have one university-wide body.

- Sen. Krafcisin endorsed the idea of a coordinating council and said it could meet as needed, with information flow being the most important aspect. The name “Senate” confuses that role, she said. She stated she would like to see the Senate made up of members from the other constituencies and to act in an advisory role to the (University) President.
- Sen. Kelly said having the various constituencies together talking is valuable, and that regular meetings would be needed for ongoing coordination. He stated that he would dissolve the Senate.
- Sen. M. Williams said there is value in having a separate body – whether that is the Senate or another coordinating body. He favors a deliberative body and believes it is important to have different representation instead of just representatives from each of the other bodies.
- Sen. Lee said that “coordination” is not the right concept and suggested the term *deliberation* instead.

- Sen. Jules said he is in favor of a name change for the University Senate, and that the composition of the group is also important. He said the Senate is too big, with too many faculty on it. On the question of where representation would come from, he suggested that the One Loyola mission/model means representatives should represent all constituencies, not based on which campus they are from.
- Incoming Sen. Torrez (who will start his term in January) said he believes geographic proximity is important because differences between the campuses are vast.
- Sen. Friar raised a concern about staff turnover and said that half of the Staff Council changes every year. He asked if terms should be longer, for stability and consistency.
- Sen. Barman asked how the Faculty Council is consulted on items that come to the Senate. Sen. Heer noted that there have been some “past tensions” and Sen. Jules stated that resolutions between the groups are “often out of sync”.

- Re: the idea of having a coordinating council made up of members from the other groups, Sen. Hood expressed concern about the extra time commitment and service load for those who would serve on both. Sen. M. Williams stated that the time commitment needs to be reasonable, if adjuncts and others with a larger teaching load will be able to serve.

Sen. Heer called for a vote on whether to keep the Senate as a multi-constituency deliberating body or change it to a coordinating council. Sen. Krafcisin seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Deliberative body: 13
Coordinating council: 6
Abstain: 2

The discussion then turned to the makeup of the Senate and how senators should be selected or chosen.

- Sen. Okstad said he would leave it to each constituency group to decide how representatives are chosen. Sen. Abuya, representing GPAC, also stated she believes each group should have their own choice of how they choose their representatives.
- Sen. Dervishi stated that for students, SGLC executives choose who will be on the University Senate.
- Sen. Ahumada stated that every group needs to have representation, using Arrupe College as an example.
- Sen. Heer noted that the main issue in the SGTF report regarding the Senate was over-representation of faculty.

Sen. Hood asked for a vote on whether the Senate should have more balanced representation among the various constituencies rather than the current makeup, heavily weighted toward faculty.

Question: Should the Senate have more balanced representation?

Yes: 17

No: 3

Abstain: 2

It was decided to ask the Bylaws Committee to look at ideas for changing the makeup of the Senate for more balanced representation among constituencies – faculty, staff, and students.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Hood
Senate secretary pro tem