

February 3, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate Steering Committee & University Constitution & Regulations Committee

FROM: Charlene Luke, Chair, UCRC

RE: Proposals to Address Ambiguity Related to Senate Special Meetings

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Below are proposals relating to Senate Special Meetings, with amendments recommended and conditionally approved by the Senate Steering Committee on Feb. 3, 2022. The tracked changes indicate changes made since the last presentation of these proposals to the Faculty Senate (rather than changes from the current text of the relevant provisions).

Constitution Article IV Section 4: MEETINGS—The Faculty Senate shall normally meet at least once during each calendar month of the academic year or as specified by the Bylaws of the Senate. Special meetings of the Senate may be called upon due notice at such times as the Chair or President may designate. A special meeting also may be called upon petition of 25 members of the Senate, provided, however, that at least two (2) of the petitioning members are from different Academic Units as defined in Section 2 herein. Any item to be discussed or acted upon at a special meeting must be provided in advance to all Senators, and the support of 25 members shall operate to place that item on the agenda.

Bylaw 4(G)(1)(b): Special meetings of the Senate may be called upon due notice at such times as the Chair or President may designate, or upon petition to the Chair of at least 25 voting members of the Senate, provided, however, that at least two (2) of the petitioning members are from different Academic Units as defined in Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution. Any item to be discussed or acted upon at a special meeting must be provided in advance to all Senators and the support of 25 members shall operate to place that item on the agenda. To the greatest extent possible, all documentation about the issue to be discussed at a special meeting should be provided to Senators at the time they vote on calling a special meeting, although this does not preclude augmenting the agenda item with additional information as it becomes available.”

Bylaw 4(I) Procedures for a Special Meeting Upon Petition of Senators: Notwithstanding any other provision of this bylaw, in the event that a special meeting has been called upon petition of at least 25 of the voting members of the Senate pursuant to Bylaw 4(G)(1)(b), those petitioning senators shall submit in writing any Information Items or Action Items to the Secretary of the Senate, and ~~Those Items must be placed on the Agenda of the Senate, and may only be declined, deferred, or referred to a Senate Council or Committee upon a majority vote of the full Senate.~~ A meeting on those Items shall be called within 10 business days of receipt of the Items by the Secretary of the Senate, and the authority over the Agenda granted the Senate Steering Committee in Bylaw 4(C)(2) shall be in abeyance with respect to such Items and shall reside in

the Senate as a whole. For a special meeting, a quorum shall consist of a majority of elected senators. Except to the extent inconsistent with this Bylaw 4(I), discussion of and voting on those Items added by the petitioning senators shall be governed by Bylaw 4. The petitioning senators shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to present each item placed on the Agenda, and any other interested ~~parties~~ senators shall be permitted a similar amount of time to respond to the petitioning senators. The Faculty Senate Chair may require the petitioning senators to designate a representative to speak on their behalf at the special meeting, and the Faculty Senate Chair may also require any other group of senators to identify a representative if many members also wish to speak on the same topic.