

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on University Senate Parliamentarian

Charge: "Currently, the Parliamentarian must be a Senator. To maintain neutrality in the role and allow a Parliamentarian senator to speak on the Senate floor, consider whether changing the qualifications of the Parliamentarian to allow the appointment of a non-Senator, such as a professional hired for the role or a former Senator, and/or allowing for a Deputy Parliamentarian would better allow Senators to participate in Senate business and enhance the functioning of the Senate."

Background: As you know, the Senate Parliamentarian has a significant role and critical responsibilities. Not the least among them is to ensure that Senate functions fairly, within its own by-laws, enabling regulations and Robert's Rules of Order, and to provide the appropriate counsel for the University Senate chair to conduct and facilitate the meetings. These responsibilities are paramount to conducting fair and equitable proceedings enabling order while providing a space for opinions in both the majority and minority to be heard and addressed. Without parliamentary procedures and processes, issues that arise in the Senate risk not being fairly and equitably resolved. Thus, the parliamentarian's role is second only to the chair. Providing for an objective parliamentarian or several parliamentarians is the focus of this report.

Considerations: Conducting Senate business and deliberating on salient issues is the responsibility of all elected and appointed Senators. Each Senate constituency carefully selects or elects its representatives, ensuring a robust and vibrant shared governance body. While full time faculty and student elected Senators comprise the bulk of the Senate, the staff, alumni and lecturers are equally important though fewer in number. Since a Senate Parliamentarian can be appointed by the chair from any of these constituencies, the Senate runs the risk of reducing the representation of one of these constituencies since the parliamentarian role is fashioned to be an honest broker and non-partisan member of the Senate. The Senate must have a parliamentarian that is objective and does not advocate for any issues but this is contrary to the idea of shared governance if a voice is stifled for this reason. The Ad Hoc Committee on University Senate Parliamentarian discussed these and other issues and recommend the following changes to the Senate handbook.

Be It Resolved

The AdHoc Committee on University Senate parliamentarian recommends:

- 1. Amending the Senate handbook to allow the Chair to appoint current, or past Senators to be appointed as Senate Parliamentarian.**
- 2. Amending the Senate handbook to allow for external professional parliamentarians to be hired and appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee.**
- 3. Changing Article VII as indicated below.**

Senate Handbook

Article VII: Senate Officers and Their Responsibilities

Current text for Section F:

F. Parliamentarian

The parliamentarian is a member of the Senate appointed each year by the chair with the approval of the Executive Committee. The parliamentarian advises the presiding officer on matters pertaining to parliamentary procedure and ensures that meetings are conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and Senate practice and standing rules. In the absence of the parliamentarian, the Executive Committee can appoint a parliamentarian pro tem.

Proposed text for Section F:

F. Parliamentarian

The parliamentarian(s) may be current or former members of the Senate, or professional parliamentarians appointed each year by the chair with the approval of the Executive Committee. The active parliamentarian advises the presiding officer on matters pertaining to parliamentary procedure and ensures that meetings are conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and Senate practice and standing rules. The chair will appoint with Executive Committee

approval additional parliamentarians when needed. If the parliamentarian role is filled by a current voting member who wishes to participate in debate, an alternate parliamentarian must be appointed for the remainder of the meeting.

Submitted by: The AdHoc Committee on University Senate Parliamentarian

Jon Oliver, chair
Rochelle Andrews
Natalie Borisovets
Alison Clarke
Lucille Foster
Ann Gould
Kerry Hennessy
Vicki Hewitt
Tugrul Ozel
Heather Pierce
Robert Schwartz
Ted Szatrowski