Proposed Schedule of Senate Meetings

Sept. 17 Oct. 1 and 15 Nov. 5 and 19 Jan. 21 Feb. 4 and 25 March 4 and 18 April 1 and 15 May 13 Traditionally, the Faculty Senate meets once a month, on the third Wednesday of every month during the Fall and Spring terms (with adjustments when the third Wednesday falls during a break from classes). The Faculty Handbook Task Force has proposed a twice-a-month schedule of "regular meetings" for several reasons: 1) concern that the Senate's responsibility for debating and voting on changes in the Faculty Handbook cannot be met if the Senate meets only once a month, 2) concern that once-a-month meetings will drag out the procedure for approving changes in the Faculty Handbook, and 3) concern that the Senate constitution's restriction of decisions on constitutional amendments to "regular meetings" will drag out the procedure when a Faculty Handbook proposal would require an amendment to the Senate constitution. The constitution prohibits these decisions from being made during "special meetings" called by the Executive Officer or the Senate. I realize that this schedule creates hardship for senators and is not the schedule you expected. So I would deal with the extra meetings in this way: 1) by cancelling any meeting that isn't necessary to take care of Senate business in a timely fashion and 2) by limiting the meetings on the first Wednesday of the month to debates and votes on the Faculty Handbook and the constitution. There will be no committee reports at these meetings unless they pertain to the business scheduled for the meeting. The Executive Officer's opening remarks will be limited to this business or omitted entirely. New business would be discouraged. Rap sessions would seldom be scheduled before these meetings. If the constitution did not restrict Senate business during special meetings added to the schedule, we could handle the workload problems this year by scheduling extra meetings as needed instead of increasing the number of "regular meetings" and cancelling these meetings when they are not needed. We should learn this year how the Senate's new responsibilities will likely affect the time commitments of senators and develop changes in the constitution to better deal with the Senate's scheduling needs in the near future.

Submitted by Dr. James McDonald, EO, for consideration by the Faculty Senate on September 17, 2014