Motion to Change the Senate’s Procedure for the Approval of Curricular Proposals

Introduction

This motion would change the procedure by which curricular proposals are voted on by the Senate. Specifically, most curricular proposals (but not all) would be considered under a consent agenda. This means that they would not undergo discussion and not receive an explicit Senate vote, and they would be deemed to have passed unless certain conditions applied (see below).

Motion

The following procedures apply to curricular proposals from the Faculty Curriculum Committee and/or the Faculty Committee on Graduate Education, Continuing Education and Special Programs:

A. Each proposal to create a new program (including degree programs, majors, minors, concentrations, graduate certificates, etc.) will receive a Senate vote.
B. Each proposal to terminate an existing program will receive a Senate vote.
C. Each proposal to change a curricular policy will receive a Senate vote.
D. In most cases, proposals to create or terminate programs are submitted as a bundle: for instance, proposals for new programs often involve new courses. These proposals will be voted on as a bundle, unless:
   1. a Senator wishes to isolate a specific proposal for discussion and a separate vote; or
   2. the Committee that approved the proposal has decided (in accordance with its own procedures) to isolate a specific proposal for discussion and a separate vote; or
   3. the proposal involves an appeal of the decision of the aforementioned Committees.
E. Proposals for new online-only courses will receive a Senate vote.
F. All other curricular proposals will be handled under a consent agenda, unless:
   1. a Senator wishes to isolate a specific proposal for discussion and a separate vote; or
   2. the Committee that approved the proposal has decided (in accordance with its own procedures) to isolate a specific proposal for discussion and a separate vote; or
   3. the proposal involves an appeal of the decision of the aforementioned Committees.
G. The Committees shall continue to provide the full text of all proposals to the Senate by the established deadline.

Rationale

The current process of curricular review is quite extensive. Every proposal is reviewed by the department, the department chair, the Dean, the Provost’s Office, the Registrar’s Office, and the appropriate Committees; in some cases, a departmental committee and a school committee are involved as well. In addition, each proposal goes before the Senate for an explicit vote. Specifically, the Senate votes on all course proposals as a batch, then casts individual votes on program changes, new programs, and program terminations.

This procedure consumes a substantial amount of the Senate’s time, particularly during the Spring semester when the list of proposals is quite long. The proposed changes keep the faculty at the College of Charleston in control of the curriculum, but streamline the Senate procedure by allowing the Senate and the relevant Committees to isolate the particular proposals that warranted additional review. The respective Committees would continue to review all proposals, and the Senate would retain the authority to approve, remand, or reject all proposals. The Committees and the Senate would, at their discretion, be able to isolate a proposal for further discussion and an individual vote. Rather, the revised procedure would allow the Senate and the Committees to choose how they wanted to spend their time.