

Stockton University

Faculty Senate Resolution

Internal Procedure for the Consideration of Motions – First & Second Readings

Whereas, The Faculty of the Richard Stockton College voted to create a Faculty Senate as its representative governing body in academic year 2009-10 to encourage more streamlined, efficient and effective participation in shared governance at the University;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate was elected to serve as an advisory body to the Provost and President of the University and to provide a Faculty voice in the formulation of University policy;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate is the principal agent of the Faculty in the governance process and under the Constitution of the Faculty the Senate may consider any University matter on its own initiative or at the request of the Faculty Assembly, the Committees, individual Faculty members, students, the University administration, the Board of Trustees, or any campus organization and review any University policies and make recommendations concerning them;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate recognizes that certain major proposals, such as the creation of new programs and significant changes to University academic policy, require thoughtful deliberation and debate; and

Whereas, First and Second Readings of major proposals provides for a free and open discussion of resolutions and their underlying issues in a relaxed and informal atmosphere, sufficient time for reflection and consideration, and timely debate and decision; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate of Stockton University:

1. adopts the attached internal procedure for the consideration of motions, which includes proposals, resolutions, and recommendations from committees/task forces
2. publishes the adopted procedure on the Faculty Senate website
3. evaluates the adopted procedure after one year to determine if modifications are necessary

Faculty Senate internal procedure for handling of motions

1. All matters on which the Senate takes action shall be presented as motions, this includes proposals, resolutions, and recommendations from committees/task forces.
2. Motions will be considered major motions under the following situations:
 - a. All motions to create, suspend, or close an academic program (as defined by the Program Life Cycle procedures) and all changes to University academic policy
 - b. When constructing the agenda, the Senate Executive Committee determines a motion is one in which the subject is likely to be controversial, the subject is particularly important, or upon which there is an evident lack of agreement in the Senate.
 - c. One-third of the voting members present at a Senate meeting votes to consider a motion as a major motion.
3. All major motions on which the Senate shall take action will have two readings in two separate, scheduled meetings of the Senate. Normally the First and Second readings will occur as consecutive Senate meetings.
 - a. **First Reading:**
 - i. Major motions will be provided to the Faculty in writing prior to the First Reading.
 - ii. At the First Reading, the motion is subject to discussion and clarification, but a vote on the motion itself may not be taken.
 - iii. The primary authors of the motion/proposal/resolution (faculty and/or administrators) shall be asked to attend the First Reading to present an overview of the proposal and answer questions.
 - iv. After the First Reading, the committee or individual sponsoring the motion will consider the questions raised and recommendations made in the discussion and make any appropriate revisions; this will facilitate expeditious handling of the motion during the Second Reading.
 - b. **Second Reading:**
 - i. Prior to the Second Reading, a revised motion will be provided to the Faculty in writing.
 - ii. At the Second Reading, the motion is subject to further discussion, amendments, or other actions permitted by Robert's Rules of Order, including a vote on the motion itself.
 - c. **Exceptions to First/Second Reading requirement for major motions**
 - i. Any Senator may request a waiver of the Second Reading requirement by moving that a major motion be "fast-tracked", which requires a second and is not debatable.
 - ii. If the motion to "fast-track" is approved by the 3/4 of Senate members present, the Senate may take formal action on the major motion at a single meeting.
 - iii. If the motion to "fast-track" fails, the motion will return for a Second Reading at the next scheduled Senate meeting.
4. All other Senate business may be handled in one reading.