SP.17.07  Proposed Revision to Standing Rule 13 – Formation, Termination, Separation, Transfer, Merger, Change in Status, or Renaming of Units

BACKGROUND
The Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) requested a revision to Standing Rule 13 to clarify an ambiguity in the current rules on submitting notification to EPC of a substantive change in department enrollment, faculty, or degree programs. Consistent with the charge (Bylaws, Part D.8a) to EPC that the committee “shall examine, and make recommendations, to the Senate concerning appropriate action on, educational policy matters,” EPC wishes to clarify that submitting proposals on substantive modifications to departments or colleges, or their associated curricula, programs or degrees, is required for any substantive change.

RECOMMENDATIONS
The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to Standing Rule 13. Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is struck through.

PROPOSED REVISION TO STANDING RULE 13

Formation, Termination, Separation, Transfer, Merger, Change in Status, or Renaming of Units

A. If a unit of academic governance or administration intends to make a significant change to the enrollment or faculty in a current degree, major, minor, concentration, or other educational program, it must first file with the Senate Committee on Educational Policy a statement proposal detailing its intent. Any student, staff or faculty member or administrator who believes such a change is being contemplated may also ask the committee to determine whether the change would be of sufficient magnitude to require submission.

After receiving the statement proposal, the committee may require verification that the proposing unit has informed all affected units, faculty and enrolled students. The committee may solicit comments from these and additional parties. Upon review of these materials, the committee shall determine what further action is required, including a public hearing, periodic re-evaluation of the proposal’s progress, or further Senate action.

For the purposes of this Standing Rule, “significant” changes shall be include those that are intended to last two years or more and that lead to modification an increase or decrease of faculty size by at least 25 percent or student enrollment by at least 25 percent (for programs with 100 or more students) or at least 50 percent (for programs with fewer than 100 students).
Plans that seek would result in the eventual termination of a program require submission of a proposal requesting such termination and approval by the committee and the Senate before any action is taken to terminate admissions, transfer faculty or remove the program from a unit website or the campus Programs of Study.

Any student, staff or faculty member or administrator who believes such a change is being contemplated may also ask the committee to determine whether the potential change would be of sufficient magnitude to require submission.

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