



College of Natural Resources and Environment

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Memorandum

To: Sam Easterling, Chair, University Governance Task Force
From: Dean F. Stauffer, Chair, Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies
Date: 13 December, 2017
Subject: Comments regarding UC Resolution 2017-18 A

At the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies meeting on December 11 we discussed UC Resolution 2017-18A. The general sense of discussion was favorable towards the resolution, recognizing the need for greater transparency and input in the governance process.

There were two areas of the resolution that generated substantial discussion, and we feel are in need of clarification. These are:

B. "All Commissions shall consult with the four formal constituent groups **at the beginning of and during the process of developing resolutions.**"

We feel that this wording is unclear and does not fit well with the nature of resolution development. CUSP does not develop independent resolutions; rather, we address resolutions that come to the Commission from various groups represented on the Commission, such as individual colleges regarding degree/major development or the Academic Policies Committee regarding policies relevant to the student body. It is not reasonable that the constituent groups should be involved at the initial stages of developing such resolutions, and we do not think this is in fact what is intended with this wording. It would become unnecessarily cumbersome to, for example, include the constituent groups when developing a resolution to create a new major from an existing option within a particular department. But, it certainly is reasonable, when such a resolution reaches CUSP, after approval by the college, to then offer the constituent groups opportunity for input. This seems to be what is intended by section **C**.

C. "Each respective constituent group shall send its recommendation to the Commission upon conclusion of its next regularly scheduled meeting, but in all cases within four weeks . . ."

In this case, it is not clear what "its" refers to. We assume the pronoun references the constituent group, but given the sentence structure, could also be construed to mean the Commission. We recommend this verbiage be revised to clearly indicate that the constituent group is being referred to here. Perhaps something along the lines of this would work:

"Each respective constituent group shall send its recommendation to the Commission upon conclusion of the constituent group's first meeting subsequent to receipt of the resolution, but in all cases within four weeks . . ."

We appreciate your consideration of these suggestions for revision to the resolution.

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