Consent Calendars

Discussion

The purpose of the consent calendar is to adopt routine matters before the senate by unanimous consent of the senate without debate. The purpose is to dispose of matters that are typically non-controversial, such as minutes, course updates and approvals, approval of program review validations and other routine matters such as technical revisions to college policies. Each item on the consent calendar is numbered. Consent calendars are generally adopted early in the meeting. However, it is recognized that there may be objections to specific items on a consent calendar. When the consent calendar is reached on the agenda, the senate president will present the consent calendar to the senate and ask if there are any objections. If no objections are made, the consent calendar, and thus all items on the consent calendar, are immediately adopted and without debate. If there is an objection raised, the objecting senator will state which item(s), by number, is to be removed from the consent calendar. The senate president asks if there are further objections. If there are no further objections, the consent calendar is then adopted.

Any items removed from the consent calendar are then considered with full debate at the appropriate point in the agenda. For example, suppose a senator objected to approval of a new course on the consent calendar. Since new courses are reported from the Curriculum Committee, that proposed new course would then be removed from the consent calendar and placed under the Curriculum Committee report. At that point in the agenda, that specific new course is subject to debate and vote by the senate.

Because consent calendars involve the adoption of numerous action items at once and without debate, it is the responsibility of every senator and officer to read the consent calendar and supporting documents before senate meetings so that objectionable items can be removed before adoption.

Proposed standing rule on consent calendars:

The consent calendar shall be distributed by the senate president 72 hours in advance of the meeting and be considered at or near the beginning of the agenda. Items may be removed from the consent calendar on the request of any one senator or officer, except the president. Items not removed shall then be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items will be taken up under Old Business or placed under the appropriate committee report on the agenda.