



UNIVERSITY OF
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UNIVERSITY SENATE

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November 16, 2012

Matthew Popkin
6801 Preinkert Drive, Apt. 7312D
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Dear Mr. Popkin,

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) examined the proposal entitled, "Proposal to Maintain Accurate Voting Records for Senators (Senate Doc. No. 12-13-25)" at its meeting on November 12, 2012.

The SEC carefully reviewed the proposal and discussed the potential impact of such a change on the Senate body and the Senate Office. Members of the committee raised concerns about the overall focus of the proposal and the consequences of changing the current voting procedures. Specifically, the committee questioned the following:

1. The purpose of the proposal including the end goal.
2. The logistical implications of changing the voting procedures.
3. The resources required to implement such a change.
4. The potential backlash of public voting records on our junior faculty, staff, and students.
5. The practicality of implementing such a drastic change in Senate procedure (i.e. cost, labor).
6. The fact that the regular rotation of senators does not seem to be taken into account.

The SEC also noted that the University Senate is not comparable to the US Senate because our body is not a legislative one, but is advisory. The University Senate makes recommendations to the University's President. One of the beauties of the Senate and our procedures as currently constituted is the fact that students, untenured faculty, and staff can participate within worrying about recrimination from those up the hierarchical chain of our organization.

After careful consideration, the SEC agreed that the further Senate review was not appropriate. Thank you for taking the time to craft a proposal for Senate consideration. Should you have any questions about the SEC's decision, please do not hesitate to contact me or Reka Montfort at 301-405-5804.

Sincerely,

Martha Nell Smith
Chair

MNS/rm