

**SPECIAL REPORT
of the
RULES COMMITTEE**

concerning

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON
GUIDELINES REGARDING SPONSORSHIP OF EVENTS**

**Presented at the 789th
Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
October 17, 2019**

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GUIDELINES REGARDING SPONSORSHIP OF EVENTS

Rationale

The need for shared understandings across campus about the meaning and implications of event sponsorship arises from the current context of polarization of debate on many issues in the wider national arena. In such a context, the campus can easily become a hotspot for contention, where even basic protocols of encounter and difference are in dispute.

The purpose of this ad hoc committee is to seek input from an array of relevant campus constituencies on what recommendations regarding event sponsorship can be made while honoring the mission of our institution as an environment of intellectual, social, cultural and political inquiry.

In considering these matters, it should be clear that the ad hoc committee will *not*:

Seek to curtail freedom of speech or academic freedom in any way.

Attempt to define the dividing line between intellectual and political perspectives.

Address how departments or other units make their own decisions on sponsorship.

Charge

To explore the terrain around hosting, sponsoring, and co-sponsoring events and to clarify the various issues that arise when the campus or units within host, sponsor, or co-sponsor an event held on or off campus. The idea is to provide a helpful map of that terrain, and a compass for navigation.

To provide, in the light of the results of this exploration, guidelines that the Faculty Senate can recommend for departments, academic units, and the university as a whole about the meanings and implications of hosting or otherwise sponsoring or co-sponsoring events on or off campus.

In the course of its work, the ad hoc committee will undertake consultations with a broad set of campus constituencies – including, but not limited to, Academic Deans, Department Heads and Chairs, Directors of Institutes and Centers, Campus Administration, Faculty, and Student Governance Bodies.

Composition

The ad hoc committee will consist of at least 8 and no more than 10 faculty members or librarians appointed by the Rules Committee in a way that assures representation from many areas of campus.

Reporting Date

The Ad Hoc Committee should begin its work no later than the first week of November 2019 and should report to the Faculty Senate no later than the end of January 2020.

MOTION 07-20 That the Faculty Senate approve the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Guidelines Regarding Sponsorship of Events, as presented in Sen. Doc. 20-014.