

## FW: Resolutions for 02/06/12 Senate meeting

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Mailbag\_Message\_ID 13

Message\_ID <BEA32338E8EDDD4AAB3C6A70586819DC079351E0@CH1PRD0402MB116.namprd04.prod.outlook.com>  
From "Fessler, Susanna" <sfessler@albany.edu>  
Date 2012-01-27 11:34:59+00:00  
To Senate Executive Committee <SEC@albany.edu>  
Subject FW: Resolutions for 02/06/12 Senate meeting  
Resolutions0212final.docx  
Attachments peers.xlsx  
PR Deactivate or Discontinue11-1-10.doc

Colleagues,  
I am forwarding this as requested.  
Susanna  
Susanna Fessler  
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Humanities 210  
University at Albany, State University of New York  
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**From:** Wills, David R  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 10:51 PM  
**To:** Fessler, Susanna  
**Subject:** Resolutions for 02/06/12 Senate meeting

Susanna,

Please find attached three resolutions I wish to introduce at the 02/06/12 Senate meeting, as well as two supporting documents:

- 1) SUNY central deactivation/discontinuance form (relative to Resolution 2);
- 2) table (from web sources) of offerings in Classics and European languages at peer institutions (relative to Resolution 3).

Please let me know if you would like any other documentation to be made available.

Given my desire to discuss these matters at the previous meeting, supported by a majority of senators, I ask that they be given priority on the agenda.

Please communicate to the SEC the following explanation of my actions prior to and during the last meeting:

I considered that the matter of the deactivations was something that needed to be discussed but I felt that a resolution was premature given my absence from previous meetings and not having a good sense of whether the Senate wished to take up the issue.

I understood your e-mail responses to my request to include the matter as an agenda item to be an unacceptable and obstructionist maneuver, on the basis of the substance of the questions I was raising, to preempt discussion of them, in violation of the broad terms of the Senate mandate in the Faculty By-Laws. If indeed the requirement of an actionable item has become the norm, I believe that to make that norm absolute also violates the By-Laws. There should be occasions when a discussion can take place without an actionable item. The By-Laws precisely keep that option open, and prevent the Chair or the SEC from preempting discussion, or from making a biased determination concerning the substance of a matter to be discussed.

The By-Laws are intentionally broad, and do not give the Chair and SEC the prerogative to determine in advance what falls within the purview of the Senate, or what it deems worthy of inclusion. If the Senate finds that its time is being wasted by the introduction of frivolous matters or by the actions of one or more Senators, other procedures exist (or should be instituted) in order to curtail those activities. The SEC's exclusion of an item from the agenda prior to a meeting is not such a procedure, and it is explicitly forbidden by the By-Laws.

Thank you for your attention,  
David

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