The Working Group on Senate Governance proposes the following schedule for reforms this year:

1. December 8th Senate Meeting

Proposal 6.1: Remove limits on the number of Senators allowed from a single department.

2. January 19th Senate Meeting

Proposal 6.2: Reassign our current Senate seats reserved for Assistant Professors to be normal seats open to tenure and tenure-track faculty of any rank.

The working group agreed that dedicating seats in the Senate to Assistant Professors was not ideal. Most who take these seats are quickly promoted soon after. Those who are farther from promotion are not always in the best position to speak their minds freely or dedicate significant time to University service. In the past 6 years, there has not been evidence that these seats have been a special conduit to issues particular to assistant professors. We recommend removing the restriction on these seats and making them normal seats open to any tenure or tenure-track faculty member. As under the current rules, Assistant Professors remain eligible to run for any of the normal seats. This change involves three seats, one in Natural Sciences and Engineering, one in Humanities and Social Science, and one in the professional schools.

Proposal 6.3: Redistribute seats that were reserved for assistant professors and increase the total number of Senators.

Proposal 6.3.1: The two seats reserved, one each for the Natural Sciences and Engineering and for the Humanities and Social Sciences, should be recongfigured as four seats, one each for Natural Sciences, Engineering, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Proposal 6.3.2: The single seat reserved for the professional schools should remain, but it should follow a fixed calendar of rotating sequentially through the three schools and be elected for a two year term. For example, the seat would be occupied by someone from the Shepherd School for two years, Architecture for the next two years, and then the Jones School for the next two years. The cycle will then repeat.

3. February 23rd Senate Meeting

Proposal 7.1: Move the election of the Senate leadership so that officers and executive committee are in place for the summer and so the new Senate elects its own leadership. This requires seating the newly elected Senate for at least part of the last meeting of the academic year, during which time their first and only action is to elect leadership.

Proposal 7.2. Simplify the makeup of the Executive Committee and elect positions individually, rather than as a slate.