ECB 06-16 Academic Senate Responsibilities

1 **WHEREAS:** the ASUSU Academic Senate exists for the betterment of student life with a particular charge to care for the quality of academics that exists at Utah State University.

2 **WHEREAS:** the combined voice of the Academic Senate represents the entire student body, and therefore should have the authority to represent said constituency in academic matters.

3 **BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED:** all bills and resolutions pertaining to academics will be presented to and voted on by the Academic Senate.

4 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** that the vote of the Academic Senate shall be the voice of ASUSU Student Government with regards to the aforementioned academic issues.

5 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** Criteria qualifying a bill or resolution as an academic issue may include but is not limited to: issues dealing with the teacher/student relationship, programs or events that deal with out-of-class instruction or learning, policies addressing academic code or procedures, or any other matters that are of an academic nature.

6 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** that the ASUSU President, Academic Senate President, and Senate Pro Tempore will determine if any bill or resolution would qualify as “academic” by a simple majority vote. This must take place before the bill or resolution in question becomes a first reading item in either body.
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BE IT FURTHER ENACTED: the decision of the ASUSU President, Senate President, and Senate Pro Tempore will be presented by the ASUSU President to the at the beginning of the next Executive Council meeting.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED: that the decision of the ASUSU President, Academic Senate President, and Senate Pro Tempore may be reversed by a 2/3 vote by the Executive Council before the second reading of said bill or resolution in the Executive Council or the Academic Senate.

Sponsors:

Spencer Watts, ASUSU Academic Senate President

Co-Sponsors:

Quinn Millet, ASUSU President

Cody Bingham, ASUSU Senate Pro Tempore/College of Agriculture Senator
Policy Paper Academic Senate Responsibilities

History: When the 2004-2005 ASUSU Executive Council restructured ASUSU, they created the Academic Senate. This was done for a few reasons, including the desire to have a more efficient way of passing legislation, and limiting the power of an individual Senator because of their individual constituency. While the structure is now in place to facilitate the changes that were desired, the Academic Senate has been left without a clear roll within ASUSU.

The purpose ECB 06-16 is to more clearly define the roll of the Academic Senate. ECB 06-16 addresses the issue of providing a more efficient way of passing legislation. Currently if a Senator wants to present a bill or resolution, and have it recognized by ASUSU Student Government, they are required to present it in the Academic Senate as well as the Executive Council, a 4 meeting process. This is hardly a more efficient model than what existed last year. By allowing the Academic Senate to vote on academic issues, this will not only speed up the legislative process, it will give the Academic Senate a more clearly defined responsibility within ASUSU.

ECB 06-16 outlines what would be considered as an academic issue but also leaves some room for interpretation for those who will be involved in the decision process. It also includes a check on the people involved in the decision making process by ASUSU Executive Council. This will ensure that the bills or resolutions in question will be discussed in the appropriate place.

Strengths: This will give the Academic Senate a more clearly defined responsibility within ASUSU.

Weaknesses: There will be a greater need to have clear communication between the two bodies. If there is poor communication, it could lead to misunderstanding and poor rapport between the ASUSU Executive Council and the ASUSU Academic Senate.