BILL: S2016 – SR13

TITLE: Course Schedule Procedural Reform Bill

SPONSOR: Reshma Gogineni, Speaker

DATE: March 13th, 2016

Whereas, currently, the course descriptions published on the course schedule are often not edited or changed frequently enough (some have not been edited for years),

Whereas, when multiple professors teach a course, all the professors write the course description collaboratively or new professor teaching the course will simply use the course description already in place,

Whereas a survey seeking feedback on the course schedule and MiddCourses was sent to all-students, to which 342 students responded and from which the following statistics were derived,

Whereas, of the 302 students that answered the question of whether MiddCourses adequately helps describe what a course will be like, the majority (61.6%) said that it decently helps for some classes more than other,

Whereas 43.8% of students have said that they have taken a class that “varied significantly from how it was described to them on the course listing”

Whereas 80.8% of students have said that they have taken a class that “they heard was taught significantly differently by another professor,”

Whereas 97.4% of students said they would benefit from more detailed and professor-specific course schedule descriptions,

Whereas individual comments from the survey often referenced how the lack of specificity and vagueness on the part of course listings has limited students’ educational experiences and increased mental stress about registration,

Whereas, currently, the procedure for making changes to the course schedule is tedious and antiquated and has caused course listings for some classes to remain stagnant for years,

Be it resolved that....

The SGA Senate recommends to the administration they adopt a system that makes it possible for professors to more easily edit and individualize course listings course descriptions. On the form (or other method) through which professors edit the
course descriptions, there should be a reminder encouraging professors to keep their listings up to date. Furthermore, the form should encourage professors to add a personalized addition to the course description in which the teaching philosophy of the professor, the format of the class, the concentration area that the professor will focus on (ex. in a history class about South Asia, specifically mention the regions that will be discussed in depth), and the general assessment style (such as whether it is exam, essay, or presentation heavy) are addressed in the language of the course listing.

To motivate the usage of such a system, the SGA recommends that an administrator send the head(s) of the student Education Affairs Committee (EAC) the date by which course description changes must be submitted for the next semester’ course catalog. This information will be sent out to the student body by the student EAC alongside a suggestion that students speak to their current professors about how accurately the professors’ course descriptions represented the classes they are taking.

Respectfully submitted,
Reshma Gogineni, Senior Senator