

# OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY SENATE ANNUAL REPORT COVER SHEET

## Executive Summary

Period: 2025-2026

**Current Committee Chair:** Susan Gershman

**Incoming Committee Chair:** Robert Hughes

**Committee Members:** Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Helen Malone, Jared Gardner, Jin Jun, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson, Angilmarie Rivera Sanchez, Jesus Cuaxico-Valencia, Brady Condon

**Number of Meetings:** 11

**Do you have Bylaws? If yes, please Attach** yes.

*Briefly describe the key accomplishments of your committee this year:*

In 2025-2026, the rules committee worked on the following issues: the Research compliance 04 bypass, ORI-related edits about research misconduct, edits to rules about the Rules committee, USAC, Athletic council, CAFR and Honorary degrees.

*Please reflect on the goals set for this committee identified in the prior Annual Review and describe how they were addressed:*

We had anticipated that we would need to pass edits about student disruption to University Rules in conjunction with changes to the Student Code of Conduct; edits to 04 rules, and changes to University Rules caused by the SB1 mandate. The Rules committee responds when changes to Rules are needed. As it turned out, different changes to the Rules were needed than we expected. We did end up making changes to the 04, although not because of SB1.

*Please indicate key goals this committee wants to accomplish in 2026-2027.*

We would like to complete changes to the rules about Dean and Chair appointments that were stopped due to changes in administration. We would also like to make sure that RISC ends up in the rules. It may be necessary to make additional rules changes in response to SB 1 or HB 96.

*Did you consult with any other Senate Committees? Are there other committees with which you feel this committee should connect in 2024-2025?*

We consulted with USAC, Athletic council, CAFR, IPPC, and Honorary degrees.

| Meetings (# or Dates) | Number in attendance | Guests (#) | Names                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 3, 2025       | 12                   |            | Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Jared Gardner, Jin Jun, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson                                           |
| October 10, 2025      | 12                   |            | Mary Breckenridge, Jorge Clavo Abbass, Jesus Cuaxico-Valencia, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Ivy Hammond, Jared Gardner, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson, Angilmarie Rivera Sanchez                 |
| November 7, 2025      | 12                   |            | Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Jared Gardner, Jin Jun, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson                                           |
| November 14, 2025     | 14                   |            | Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Jared Gardner, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson, Angilmarie Rivera Sanchez, Jesus Cuaxico-Valencia |

|                   |    |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|----|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 5, 2025  | 13 | 2 | Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Jared Gardner, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson, Julia Behnfeldt, Bridget Carruthers                           |
| January 9, 2026   | 11 |   | Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Jared Gardner, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson                                                                |
| February 6, 2026  | 12 |   | Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Helen Malone, Jared Gardner, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson                                                  |
| February 13, 2026 | 13 |   | Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Jared Gardner, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson, Angilmarie Rivera Sanchez, Jesus Cuaxico-Valencia             |
| February 20, 2026 | 14 | 2 | Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Jared Gardner, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson, Angilmarie Rivera Sanchez, Brady Condon, Julia Behnfeldt, Bridget Carruthers |
| March 27, 2026    | 12 |   | Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Helen Malone, Jared Gardner, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson                                                  |
| April 3, 2026     | 11 |   | Jorge Clavo Abbass, Kevin Petrilla, Robert Hughes, Susan Gershman, Brian Turner, Mary Breckenridge, Brandon Lester, Ivy Hammond, Jared Gardner, Francesca Hand, Sara Watson                                                                |

In 2025-2026, the rules committee worked on the following issues:

1. Research compliance 04 bypass

- University Faculty Rules 3335-5-04 (“The 04”) spells out the procedures whereby faculty are investigated and when appropriate, sanctioned
- In 2021, four 04 tracks were created to manage different categories of complaints
- Track 5 was added in summer 2025 in response to SB1
- Track 2 Research misconduct involves plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification
  - The process for determining misconduct is determined by federal law
  - For Track 2 cases, instead of going to a college committee for investigation and sanctioning recommendation, they go to the Research Integrity Standing Committee (RISC)
  - RISC is composed of subject matter experts who sit on investigation committees and have specialized training
- Cases may involve research and research compliance without involving plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification
  - Cases may be Track 1 and Track 4, but not Track 2
  - Cases may involve the adherence to applicable laws, regulations, ethical standards, institutional policies, and sponsor requirements governing the responsible conduct of research activities
  - Cases would go to a college committee that may not have the expertise to understand these cases
  - This could cause delay in investigation may put the university at risk for debarment
- Proposed edits add an “04 bypass” to Track 1 and Track 4 cases involving research compliance
  - These cases go to RISC instead of college committee
- Approved Nov 13, 2025

2. ORI and research misconduct

- The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) is a federal office that oversees and directs the Public Health Service (PHS) research integrity activities on behalf of the Secretary of Health and Human Services
- ORI issued new regulations for federal misconduct to take place Jan 1, 2026
  - 42 CFR Part 93 “Responsibilities of Institutions”
  - Among other things, these changes specify sanctioning officers and change inquiry and investigation deadlines
- The rules changes (**3335-13-08**):
  - The previous rules language designates the VPR is the person responsible for disseminating the policy, etc. However, by federal policy and actual practice at OSU, the IDO is the decider and administrator.
  - Federal policies use the term IDO rather than DO

- Additional language was included to be more specific information about what might need to be protected (i.e. research funds, material, equipment, records, the legitimate interest of research subjects, patients, or clients, research animals)
- Federal documents refer to **3335-5-04.2 B** as "Assessment" not "Preliminary assessment." This change makes our language consistent with federal language.
- To be consistent with federal policy, the respondent shall have thirty days to respond and to identify any errors or omissions in the preliminary report.

### 3. Rules committee rules

- Added term limits
- Extended staff terms from 2 to 3 years
- Added a chair-elect
- Approved January 29, 2025

### 4. USAC term lengths

- Extends term lengths for staff senators from two to three years
- Includes language about staff senate alternates
- Approved February 25, 2026

### 5. Athletic council membership

- Adds an undergraduate student athlete
- Reduces the number of alums from two to one
- Described how graduate students, professional students and undergraduate students are appointed
- All students now have 1-year appointments
- Adds the Senior Vice President/CEO of the Ohio State Alumni Association as an ex-officio member
- Approved March 26, 2026

### 6. CAFR

- Adds a staff member and a faculty member
- Specifies how the graduate student is appointed
- CAFR sometimes needs to meet in the summer. Edits were made to make it possible for CAFR to work well in the summer.
  - Specify when terms start
  - Specify term lengths
  - Reduces quorum in summer
- Specifies that CAFR reports can include information about non-faculty engaged in teaching and research in study
- Approved April 23, 2026

7. Honorary degrees

- Specifies that voting members should be able to see the full dossier of candidates for honorary degrees
- Specifies how voting may occur
- Resolves an inconsistency in the rules: According to 3335-5-41(A)(3), nominations go from the University Senate to the Board of Trustees. But according to 3335-5-48.8(7)(c), nominations go from the University Senate to the President.
  - Changes specify that the report goes to the Board of Trustees
  - cc'ing the President
- Approved April 23, 2026

In 2026-2027, Rules will be working on the following issues:

8. Dean and Chair appointments (brought to FC but not senate)

- Added language to reflect recent OAA reorganization and title changes
- Added clarity on reporting line for EVP and CEO of the Wexner Medical Center
- Added language to reflect how deans are currently nominated
- Added description of how the dean of the College of Medicine is nominated.
- Brought to FC March 5, 2026

9. RISC (in progress)

- Because RISC is part of the 04 process, it is mentioned in the faculty rules. However, RISC is not described in the faculty rules.
- Working with ERIK on language to describe RISC in the rules.

Robert Hughes will be the Chair of Rules in 2026-2027