

Open Meeting Law

As a matter of principle faculty Senate to adhere to basic Open Meeting Law stipulations:

Discussion and Action items: “The public body may discuss, consider, or decide only those matters listed on the agenda and ‘other matters related thereto.’ A.R.S. § 38-431.02(H). The ‘other matters’ clause provides some flexibility to a public body but should be construed narrowly.”

Implications: Faculty Senate should not discuss or take action on items not posted in the agenda. There are contingency guidelines for emergency situations.

“New business” as an item on the agenda: “This requirement does not permit the use of generic agenda items such as ‘personnel,’ ‘new business,’ ‘old business,’ or ‘other matters’ unless the specific matters or items to be discussed are separately identified.”

Implications: Faculty Senate should stipulate on the agenda that “new business” topics are not discussion or action. It could be used to recommend future agenda items

A good reference for understanding the Arizona Open Meeting Law can be found at the following link: <https://www.azoca.gov/open-meeting-and-public-records-law/open-meetings/>. The Arizona Agency Handbook (2013) is available through the Arizona Ombudsman Citizen web site and was used as a reference here.