

Standing Rule of Placement and Frequency of Public Comments in Agenda

The general public—anyone who is not a Senator or elected Senate officer—is given the opportunity to speak at the “Opportunity to Address the Senate” place near the beginning of the agenda. Each person who speaks is allowed 3 minutes to speak and a combined total of fifteen minutes is allotted regardless of the number of speakers at any one (1) Senate meeting. At the discretion of a majority of the Senate, these times may be extended.

We ask individuals wishing to speak during public comments to fill out the “Opportunity to Address Request” form found on the Senate’s website in the “Joining Academic Senate Meetings” section prior to the start of the meeting to aid in creating an orderly and timely progress of public comments in the meeting. Those who use the form will be recognized first, then *if time permits*, a call will be made at the meeting for any additional members of the public who wish to make public comments.

https://bakersfieldcollegeedu.formstack.com/forms/opportunity_to_address_request_academic_senate

Anyone (general public and Senators/Officers) wishing to distribute documents for Senators/Officers to consider at the meeting where an action (vote) will be taken, must fill out the “Opportunity to Address Request” form found on the Senate’s website in the “Joining Academic Senate Meetings” section by three hours before the meeting (i.e., 12:30 PM). The document(s) will be posted on the Senate’s meeting page in time for the rest of the public to see what document(s) the Senators/Officers are considering.

For the rest of the meeting, the Senators and Officers are the only ones allowed to discuss/debate the agenda items, unless a majority of the Senate votes to allow a member of the general public with relevant information or expertise to speak on a given agenda item.

Public Comments statement:

At this time, the public may address the Academic Senate on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Academic Senate that is on the agenda or not on the agenda. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes per topic. Fifteen (15) minutes shall be the maximum time allotment for public speakers regardless of the number of speakers at any one (1) Senate meeting. At the discretion of a majority of the Senate, these times may be extended.

Each person who addresses the Senate must first be recognized by the Academic Senate President or designee. Comments should be addressed to the Senate as a whole and not to individual members. Members of the Senate are not obligated to comment on, or respond to, or address comments by the public.