

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.

People wishing to speak during public comments 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).

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

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.