Faculty Senate

M2020.21.14 Motion on Discussion Board Transparency

Originator: Senator Máté Wierdl

Whereas,

The Discussion Board needs to be accessible to all faculty and graduate students for two reasons:

- It will provide quick feedback to the Senate from all UofM employees who contribute to education and research.   Presently, such direct and quick feedback doesn't exist. We rarely hear faculty or graduate student voices from trenches.

- It will provide an easily accessible source of information on the workings of the Senate. Presently, the path of information to the wider audience is treacherous, to say the least: a senator has to forward the information to her department and then has to explain in detail all the surrounding and background circumstances.

To achieve the above, the software for this board needs to be flexible, easily maintained and very stable so that the owner of the list (presumably the Senate president or a designated senator) can easily configure it and maintain it to suit the Senate's purposes. Luckily, such software is freely available due to the great demand for them. A specific recommendation is bbPress of WordPress, but there are literally dozens of such softwares to choose from.

https://www.how2shout.com/tools/free-best-open-source-forum-software-online-discussion.html

The discussion board coming with ecourseware doesn't satisfy the above criteria.

Be it resolved that,

The Discussion Board of the Faculty Senate will be accessible for reading to every University of Memphis faculty member and graduate student. For this purpose, the University will acquire an appropriately flexible and stable software.

Recipients:
Faculty Senate

Motion Passed 10/27/2020
Vote: 32 For, 5 Against, 1 Abstain