

# Porter Senate – Frequently Asked Questions

On this page, we've done our best to answer some of the most common questions asked about Porter Senate. If your question isn't answered here, please [Contact Us](#) via email, or drop by during our [Office Hours](#).

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## Porter Senate? What's that?

Formally speaking, the Porter Student Senate is the official representative body for the undergraduate student body of Porter College at UC Santa Cruz. We're responsible for representing and voicing the needs of the Porter College community to administrative and campus-wide officials. We're also responsible for distributing thousands of dollars in student fees to various college and campus organizations to support a wide array of student activities.

On a more informal level, though, Porter Senate is really a group of concerned community members that want to get in the loop on what's going on at Porter, help make visions become a reality, and find some really cool friends to hang out with on Thursdays.

## What does Porter Senate do?

Porter Senate has two primary responsibilities:

- Allocate the money collected from Porter's Student Government Fee to student organizations and college and campus events.
- Represent the voices of the undergraduate populace of Porter College to campus organizations and administration. We do this through talks by campus officials, sending representatives to the Student Union Assembly, and Senate Resolutions.

## Can I join?

Yep! If you're a Porter Student, it's simple to join Porter Senate. In fact, we've put up a special section on our site to help interested community members get involved with Senate. To summarize, the Constitution defines the following procedures for senators:

- If you're a continuing Porter student, you'll need to attend three meetings in a row before you can become a Senator. You'll gain senatorship on the third meeting.
- If you're a freshman or transfer student, you can become a senator immediately by attending the first meeting of the quarter in which you are entering Porter. You're considered an "honorary senator" until the third meeting, at which point you'll become a full senator. Honorary Senators have the same voting privileges as other senators.

### **Once I'm a Senator, can I lose my status as a Senator?**

Yes, it's possible to lose your Senator status, but it's not that typical. You lose your status as a Senator under any of the following conditions:

- You miss two meetings in a row without first notifying the Chair, unless you missed the meeting because of academic reasons or you were on temporary leave from UCSC.
- You graduate or withdraw from UCSC.
- You change your college affiliation to another college.

If you know you're going to be missing a lot of meetings in a row for academic or personal reasons, such as there's a class that conflicts with Senate, it's best to notify the Secretary and request to be listed as an Inactive senator. Being listed as Inactive lets the Senate know you won't be able to attend meetings for a while, and you retain your status as a Senator.

### **Where does the Senate's money come from? And where does it go?**

The Porter Student Senate, like all the other college governments and the Student Union Assembly, gets its money through student fees. The University assesses a small fee for each student (\$10/quarter), which we use to fund student organizations and college events. This fee is called the College Student Government Fee. 25% of this fee is allocated to support the Porter College Activities Office, while the rest is allocated at the discretion of the Porter Student Senate.

We strive to make our funding process and budget as transparent as possible. To learn about how your event or organization can request funding from the Senate, visit the Porter Senate's website, or stop by the Porter Activities Office. If you have any questions about the Senate's budget, please contact the Treasurer via email, or stop by during Office Hours.

### **I'd like to meet with one of you personally. Where or when can we meet?**

Your best bet is to try meeting with one of us during our published Office Hours. When we have Office Hours, they'll be posted on our site. If you can't meet with us during our Office Hours, you can also meet with us typically just before and after our weekly meetings. Otherwise, please email us so we can work out a meeting time that works for you... remember, we want to hear from you!