

**Senate Governance Committee  
Annual Report  
2022-2023**

## **Mission**

The Senate Governance Committee shall ensure continuous improvement in Faculty Senate effectiveness by establishing, monitoring, and adjusting associated measurement instruments and by proposing to the Senate Leadership Council necessary adjustments to the Senate Handbook, Senate Bylaws, and Faculty Constitution.

Committee Members:

Melissa Dobosh, Kenneth Elgersma, Mark Hecimovich, Julie Kang, Matt Makarios, Charles Holcombe  
Chair: Matthew Makarios

Meeting Dates: Fall - 9/12, 10/24; Spring - 2/13, 4/10

## **Achievements**

### Senate Handbook

The Senate Handbook is meant to provide an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Senate. A major function of the Handbook is to orient new senators to Senate operations. The Handbook includes an overview of faculty leadership and the senate, information on faculty roles and responsibilities, senate meeting dates and links to resources, and information of senate councils and committees. Also included are appendices with committee charters and a summary of Robert's Rules of Order. The senate handbook was completed by the governance committee on 2/13 and presented to the senate on 2/27 where it was amended and approved by the full senate.

### Amendments to the Senate Bylaws

There were three major changes revisions to the senate bylaws completed this year:

1. September: At the first meeting of the year, Vice Chair Dobash suggested some revisions to the bylaws. A major focus was to replace the secretary of the senate with the parliamentarian.
2. February: The Governance committee originally considered adding a number of at-large seats to the senate to allow for more than one representative per department. At the first meeting of the year, the committee tabled this proposal in favor of waiting to see how many senators we end up with for the new departmental model. Thomas Hesse argued that doing this will make it likely that term and adjunct faculty would be excluded from serving on the senate. Instead of at-large seats it was suggested that the senate instead create seats specifically for term and adjunct faculty. This proposal was approved by the faculty senate at the February 27th meeting.
3. April: At the final meeting of the year, Chair Degnin had some follow-up revisions updating the bylaws to match current practices.

## **Minutes**

The Minutes from the Governance Committee are included in the following pages.

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 12, 2022

Members: Melissa Dobosh, Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate; ~~Julie Kang~~; Mark Hecimovich; Matt Makarios

Guest: Jim Mattingly, Chair of the Faculty; Jon Burnight, Past Chair of the Faculty Senate

Call to order at 3:30 PM

### Announcements

1. Before the meeting Melissa Dobosh shared the proposed revisions to the Senate Bylaws and Faculty Constitution.

### Current business

1. Elect a Chair
  - a. Melissa Dobosh made a motion that Matt Makarios Chair the Governance Committee. Jim Mattingly seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0 in favor.
2. Proposed revisions to the Senate Bylaws and Faculty Constitution
  - a. Jim Mattingly recommended that this committee proposes to the Senate:
    - i. Support a resolution that the faculty accept the proposed changes to the faculty constitution at the fall faculty meeting.
    - ii. Accept the changes to the senate bylaws.
  - b. Content of the changes (Jim Mattingly)
    - i. A good deal is about institutionalizing certain policies that are already in practice.
    - ii. Substantive changes
      1. How we select a faculty chair: This is a change to the constitution and would have the past senate chair become the faculty chair. It would not have the chair of the faculty voted on by the faculty. In practice many of the past chairs of the faculty senate have become faculty chairs. From Vice chair of the senate, to chair of the senate, to chair of the faculty provides a progression in the faculty leadership role that allows for training and mentorship into each role. It may also make it easier to get people to volunteer to run for 1 instead of 2 leadership roles each year.
      2. How we select officers for the senate: The proposed changes to the senate bylaws would allow non-senators, with leadership experience, to run for senate officer positions.
  - c. Discussion

- i. Jon Burnight expressed the concern that then it would just be more difficult to run for Senate Chair. He said that he would not have run for senate chair if he would have had to be faculty chair.
- ii. Other Minor changes
  - 1. By laws:
    - a. Creation of a Parliamentarian
    - b. Removal of the mention of specific names of the committees from the by laws
  - 2. Faculty Constitution
    - a. Redistribution of the roles of the secretary to the vice chair and chair of the faculty senate.
    - b. Change of the deadline of the publication of the faculty roster from February 1 to March 1.
- d. Melissa Dobosh made a motion to propose to the senate to support a resolution that recommends that faculty accept the changes to the faculty constitution. Second by Mark Hecimovitch. The vote was 3-0 in support.
- e. Melissa Dobosh made a motion to propose to the senate that it adopts the revisions to the faculty bylaws. Mark Hecimovitch seconded. The vote was 3-0 in support.
- 3. Discuss potential projects and priorities
  - a. Amendment to add at-large seats to the senate: Hope to get this done by the end of the semester, Should take it up at our next meeting.
  - b. Handbook. Needs to be updated for next year.
  - c. Climate Indicators. With the campus wide community climate survey being undertaken, we may want to hold off on this.

**New business**

None

Adjourned at 4:51

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 24, 2022

Members: Melisa Dobash, Mark Hecimovich, Charles Holcome, Julie Kang, Matthew Makarios

Call to order at 3:30 PM

### Announcements

### Current business

1. Amendment to add at-large seats to the senate.
  - a. The amendment to add at-large seats to the senate was requested last year by faculty leadership in order to allow more than one person from a department to serve in the senate. At the time, Jim Mattingly suggested that adding one at-large seat for each college could be a good solution.
  - b. Matthew Makarios expressed concern about the amount of labor this would entail. When discussing this issue with colleagues in his department it became clear that they thought that adding even more seats to the senate would place a burden on faculty. The senate is already about to almost double the number of delegates with the departmental model. Do we really need more senators?
  - c. Mark Hecimovich suggested that perhaps we could reduce the number of at large seats to two. The election of the seats would be staggered so that only 1 person would need to be elected next year. Melisa Dobash agreed that one per college seems too much.
  - d. One of the issues is that we don't know how many departments are going to send a delegate, which means we don't don't know how many people will be in the senate until after elections. Melisa Dobash suggested that we table this issue until next fall when we know how many senators are serving and if more are needed.
  - e. Matthew Makarios made a motion to table the issue of at large seats until Fall 2023. Mark Hecidmovch seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.
2. Review Handbook
  - a. Senate Handbook was reviewed. Matthew Makarios offered to update the dates where needed and spend some before the next meeting going over it so we can approve it at the next meeting.

### New business

None

Adjourned at 4:00 PM

## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA**

2/13/2023

Members: Mark Hecimovich, Charles Holcome, Kenneth Elgersma, Matthew Makarios

Guests: Francis Degnin, Faculty Senate Chair, Thomas Hesse

Call to order at 3:30 PM

### **Announcements**

### **Current business**

1. Amendment to add at-large seats to the senate.
  - a. Introduced Thomas Hesse and discussed his earlier email laying out the reasons for adding at large seats for contingent faculty. With the move to the departmental model, it has made it difficult for contingent faculty to serve in the faculty senate since they are not likely to be elected (especially adjuncts). Contingent faculty represent as much as 35% of the faculty and should have a seat at the table. Thomas Hesse proposed that we add two at large seats, 1 for adjuncts and 1 for term faculty.
  - b. Charles Holcombe suggested that we have 3 seats whose elections are staggered so one person could be elected every year. Matthew Makarios suggested changes to the senate by-laws to add three at large seats - 2 adjuncts and 1 term to the faculty senate. Francis Degnan made a motion to accept changes. Mark Hecimovich seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.
2. Finalize Handbook
  - a. The handbook is in its final form and ready to be presented to the senate. Mark Hecimovich made a motion to approve the Handbook, Charles Holcombe seconded. The vote was 3 in favor and 1 abstention.

### **New business**

1. Francis Degnin has reviewed the senate bylaws and feels there is some need for revisions. We will pick up the changes at the next meeting.

Adjournment by 5:00 PM

