

Summary of Governance Committee Proposals

Description of the committee and its activities

The Ad-hoc Governance Committee met every other Monday since March 1 to consider means for monitoring, improving, and adapting activities of the senate and faculty committees under its responsibility. The Committee consisted of senate officers and four other senators: Melissa Dobosh, Kenneth Elgersma, Mark Hecimovich, and Matthew Makarios. A final report of the committee's activities and deliberations will be filed with the Faculty Senate by May 1, including minutes of each meeting. Following is a rationale for and summary of the committee's proposals.

Rationale

According to the Faculty Constitution, the Faculty Senate is responsible for ensuring the effective operation of all Faculty committees. However, the Senate currently has little oversight of these committees' activities. The state of each committee's effectiveness currently varies significantly, depending especially on the quality of leadership and extreme variation in commitment among faculty delegated to our committees by the colleges. Committees currently have no formal charters and most do not submit annual reports to the Faculty Senate. Thus, currently, although the Faculty Senate is responsible for the effectiveness of all faculty committees, no mechanisms exist to monitor and adapt their activities, nor to review the various policies that pertain to those activities (e.g. readmission, student appeals, PDA, etc.). The proposals of the Governance Committee are designed with the *singular* aim of overcoming these vulnerabilities.

Proposals

- Group standing committees into related councils (Exhibit 1)
 - Senate Leadership Council, Academic Affairs Council, Student Affairs Council
 - Foster improved cross-communication, stakeholder engagement, and adaptation
 - Key stakeholders have agreed to participate in council activities
 - First-year initiatives to establish charters and committee reports
 - A summary of council charter provisions is attached (Exhibit 2)
- Reconstitute 3 key standing committees of Senators
 - Nominating committee, Policy Committee, Governance Committee
 - Make time for committee meetings in senate schedule (Exhibit 3)
 - Non-senators roll-off 3 senate committees as current terms expire
 - Senate officers to make first-year assignments based on senator preference survey (Exhibit 4)
 - A summary of charter provisions for 3 senate committees is attached (Exhibit 5)
- Establish Governance Committee and discharge Budget Committee
 - Budget committee redundant

Next Governance Committee

- Review senate delegation model
- Other matters included in the committee's charter