

Bylaws and Procedures Committee

Minutes from the meeting held on March 1, 2023 over Zoom

Present: Nick Bircher (Medicine) [Chair], Cecelia Yates (Nursing) [Co-chair], Ben Bratman (Law) [Secretary], Sheila Alexander (Nursing), Chris Bonneau (Political Science) [Senate Past President], Kevin Conley (Health & Rehabilitation Sciences), Candice Damiani (Biological Science), Amy Flick (English), Leonie Finke (student-SGB), Gosia Fort (HSLs), Tom Hitter (liaison, Policy Development & Management), Robin Kear (Library System) [Senate President], Pratik Khare (student-GPSG), Moriah Kirdy (English), EJ Milarski-Veenis (Education) [Staff Council], Chantele Mitchell Miland (UPPDA), Lori Molinaro (Senate Office), Ruth Mostern (History), Paula Sherwood (Nursing), Jessica Townsend (Medicine) [Staff Council], Marty Levine (guest—University Times)

The meeting was called to order and a quorum ascertained at 11:02 am.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the February 1, 2023 committee meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Resolution concerning part-time faculty voting in University Senate elections and serving on Faculty Assembly and Senate committees.

Following from discussions at the February meeting, Nick explained two alternative resolutions amending the bylaws, both of which were distributed in advance of the meeting. Both options amend Article I, Section 3 to achieve membership for all part-time faculty in the University Senate and amend Article II, Section 5 to make all part-time faculty eligible for election to Faculty Assembly. Option A amends Article I, Section 4 to state that part-time faculty shall be eligible for Senate officer positions only if tenured. Option B amends the same section to state that part-time faculty shall be ineligible for Senate officer positions entirely.

Discussion ensued on the question of foreclosing part-time faculty from Senate officer positions. Some argued against on the basis that there are various reasons why faculty might be part-time and that the population will disproportionately include people of color. Some argued in favor based on practical concerns (e.g., level of time commitment, possibility that part-time faculty have other jobs or would not be teaching at all one semester). Additional discussion addressed the annual stipend for Senate officers (\$20,000 for President and Vice President; \$10,000 for Secretary) and the incentives it might create for part-time faculty to seek office.

Based on the tenor of the discussion, Nick B. raised an Option C, making all part-time faculty eligible to serve as a Senate officer. The committee reached consensus that Option A, limiting eligibility to serve as a Senate officer to just tenured part-time faculty, should be taken off the table.

Gosia F. offered a friendly amendment to the resolution deleting “full-time” before “appointments as faculty librarians” in Article II, Section 5, concerning eligibility for election to Faculty Assembly. This would avoid the unintended result of foreclosing part-time faculty librarians from eligibility for Faculty Assembly. No objection was raised to this amendment.

Ben B. called the question on whether to impose no restrictions on part-time faculty's eligibility to serve in Senate officer positions (in other words, whether to adopt Option C). There being no more discussion, the committee voted via Qualtrics: 5 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 abstaining. As the resolution to adopt Option C failed, discussion then turned to what restrictions on part-time faculty's eligibility for Senate officer positions should be imposed. Leonie F. proposed that, if the committee is going to keep a full restriction, it should add a clause to the preamble reflecting the competing concerns that led, on the one hand, to greater inclusion through Senate membership and eligibility for Assembly, but, on the other hand, to a restriction on service as a Senate officer. As a tentative draft, Leonie F. proposed—

Whereas, the Bylaws and Procedure Committee wishes to balance increased representation with continuity of governance, preserving review of affected sections to ascertain the success of that balance

In the interest of time, Nick B. proposed that the committee defer remaining discussion and a vote to the next meeting. Some discussion ensued on the advisability of deferring the matter again after discussing it at several consecutive meetings and given the presence of other issues for the committee to confront. The committee reached consensus that it was wise to refine the resolution for the next meeting and “get it right” before voting.

New Business

Introduction of Annual Reviews [of Mission Statement, Bylaws, and University Senate Administrative Handbook]

Nick B. announced that Lori will place all three documents into the One-Drive in preparation for the Committee undertaking an annual review of each one.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am

Next meeting: Wed, April 5, 2023, 11:00 am

Submitted by Ben Bratman, Secretary