

Bylaws and Procedures Committee

Minutes from the meeting held on August 2, 2023 over Zoom

Present: Nick Bircher (Medicine) [Co-Chair], Ben Bratman (Law) [Secretary], Sheila Alexander (Nursing), Kevin Conley (Health & Rehabilitation Sciences), Gosia Fort (HSLs), Robin Kear (Library System) [Senate President], Moriah Kirdy (English), Chantele Mitchell Miland (UPPDA), EJ Milarski-Veenis (Education) [Staff Council], Ruth Mostern (History), Paula Sherwood (Nursing), Jessica Townsend (Medicine) [Staff Council]

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 am and a quorum ascertained.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the May 31, 2023 committee meeting. The motion was unanimously approved with one abstention.

Old Business:

Election of Officers

Incumbent officers—Nick Bircher and Cecelia Yates as co-chairs, and Ben Bratman as Secretary—were re-elected by unanimous consent.

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

In advance of the meeting, Nick had distributed a newly revised draft of changes to the Bylaws arising out of the concerns raised at the Faculty Assembly meeting where the earlier draft had been tabled. The Committee discussed the possibility of rephrasing the term “international faculty” (used in the Preamble along with “persons of color” to identify a disproportionately underrepresented group). Some expressed concern that the term is unclear and might be offensive to U.S. citizens who are originally from another country. Others expressed that the term is self-identifying. The Committee discussed possible revisions to the language.

Regarding the changes to Art II, Sec 5 (“Part-time faculty shall only be eligible to serve on Faculty Assembly in years in which their contract extends throughout the year”), some pointed out that certain departments renew contracts semester by semester. Nick pointed out that, based on sentiments expressed by Assembly members, the removal of this restriction could imperil passage of the overall resolution. Also discussed was the fact that terms on Assembly are for three years whereas limit imposed requires only a contract running through one year. Some pointed out that the same circumstance already exists for some full-time faculty and that imposing a 3-year contract limit would eliminate the vast majority of part-time faculty.

Nick sought unanimous consent for the presented changes to the Bylaws, pending a rephrasing of “international faculty” in the Preamble and the correction of assorted typographical errors throughout. No objections were raised.

Further Review of Mission Statement

Following up on discussion of the Mission Statement at the last meeting, Nick asked members to submit proposed changes by the next meeting.

New Business:

Frequency of meetings this academic year and Nature of meetings (Zoom, Hybrid, In-person)

As Wednesdays, 11:00 am, conflicts with at least one officer's teaching schedule for fall semester, the Committee tentatively settled on 2:00 pm, Fridays, pending confirmation with Cecelia Yates, Co-Chair. Given absence of staff support at meeting, the Committee chose to schedule just the next meeting—on Zoom, Friday, September 22.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 pm

Next meeting: Fri, Sept 22, 2:00 pm

Submitted by Ben Bratman, Secretary