

Bylaws and Procedures Committee

Minutes from the meeting held on October 27, 2023 over Zoom

Present: Nick Bircher (Medicine) [Co-Chair], Ben Bratman (Law) [Secretary], Sheila Alexander (Nursing), Candice Damiani (Biological Science), Gosia Fort (HSLs), Moriah Kirby (English), Chantele Mitchell Miland (UPPDA), Penelope Morel (Medicine) [Senate Secretary, standing in for Robin Kear], Yuliana Ndaumanu (student-GPSG), Paula Sherwood (Nursing), Ramsey Smith (student-SGB), Jessica Townsend (Medicine) [Staff Council], Marty Levine (guest—University Times)

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm and a quorum ascertained.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the September 22, 2023 committee meeting. The motion was approved, with three abstentions.

Old Business:

Re-introduction of proposal regarding Constituency Committees

Nick clarified that only one constituency committee exists currently—Health Sciences. He also noted some past discussion of changing the terminology to “caucus” to avoid confusing use of the term “committee” in “constituency committee.”

Some discussion ensued about whether to address constituency committees (or “caucuses”) through an amendment to the bylaws (current proposal from Dr. David Salcido, former VP of Univ Senate), or through an entry in the University Senate handbook.

Some discussion ensued about the unique attribute of the Health Sciences caucus—more about ensuring greater communication with the Vice Chancellor. Expanding to more caucuses in other areas of university would be more designed to advance diversity and inclusion. With that focus, there would need to be a lot of changes to the current proposal.

Update of Anti-Racism Plan

Nick provided a general update on the status of each item in order to determine priorities of the committee going forward. Last item (university appellate procedures) will depend on collective bargaining agreement between union and administration, so it should probably be deferred.

Some discussion ensued about the difficulty faced by the committee on elections in trying to enhance representation of persons of color and other marginalized groups. Some members of the committee referenced a fear of overburdening persons of color as they are being asked to do all sorts of things, and some expressed that there is a need for input and guidance on how to approach the issue. Chantele will confer with Cecelia to discuss the focus of a possible resolution.

New Business

Update of Agenda for AY 23-24

Nick went over the items on the list for the annual agenda. Nick said that if anyone has ideas for new agenda items, they should send to him.

Candice raised the issue of some departments not valuing university service (as opposed to department service) in evaluating faculty, and how this is a particularly difficult situation for non-tenure stream faculty whose positions are more tenuous. It serves as a barrier to more inclusion and diversity because NTS faculty are disproportionately women and ethnic minorities.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm

Next meeting: Fri, Dec 8, 12:00 pm

Submitted by Ben Bratman, Secretary