

Bylaws and Procedures Committee

Minutes from the meeting held on May 3, 2023 over Zoom

Present: Nick Bircher (Medicine) [Co-Chair], Ben Bratman (Law) [Secretary], Chris Bonneau (Political Science) [Senate Past President], Kevin Conley (Health & Rehabilitation Sciences), Amy Flick (English), Gosia Fort (HSLs), Tom Hitter (liaison, Policy Development & Management), Robin Kear (Library System) [Senate President], Moriah Kirdy (English), EJ Milarski-Veenis (Education) [Staff Council], 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.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the March 1, 2023 committee meeting. After some discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

The committee briefly discussed the importance of reducing to writing some of the observations and recommendations of April's guest speaker, Ron Idoko, related to diversity and inclusion. (There are no Minutes from the April gathering of the committee, as no business was conducted.) Nick indicated that he would follow up with co-chair Cecelia Yates on the matter, and Ben Bratman offered assistance if needed.

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 March meeting, Nick introduced the latest resolution amending the bylaws. The resolution amends Article I, Section 3, to achieve membership for all part-time faculty in the University Senate; Article II, Section 5, to make all part-time faculty eligible for election to Faculty Assembly; and Article I, Section 4, to state that part-time faculty are ineligible for Senate officer positions. The latest resolution also includes an additional Whereas clause, drafted by committee member Leonie Finke at the March meeting, stating "Whereas, the Bylaws and Procedure Committee wishes to balance increased representation with continuity of governance, preserving review of affected sections of the bylaws to ascertain the success of that balance."

Ben Bratman reminded the committee that, based on Gosia Fort's friendly amendment from the previous meeting, the word "full-time" should be deleted before "appointments as faculty librarians" in Article II, Section 5. Moriah Kirdy suggested that the verb "wishes" in the new Whereas clause should be changed to "seeks," as "wishes" of a committee are things that can readily change. The consensus of the committee was that this was a friendly amendment.

A vote was called on approval of adding the amended Whereas clause with "seeks" in place of "wishes." The addition was approved, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Discussion ensued on the question of the overall resolution. Ben Bratman reminded the committee that its vote at a previous meeting was against imposing no restrictions on part-time

faculty's Senate service, but that the committee had not yet decided what restriction to impose. Chris Bonneau pointed out that the new Whereas clause addressed any lingering concern about foreclosing part-time faculty from Senate officer positions, at least for now.

A vote was called on approval of the full resolution. The resolution was approved, 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

Initial Review of Mission Statement

Nick raised the possibility of adding a reference to the removal of structurally discriminatory barriers and the greater representation and inclusion of marginalized communities. A brief discussion ensued on the phrasing of such an addition and the proper placement of it within the current text. Nick asked that others send him suggested language and indicated that he would draft some proposed language himself for the next meeting. Before the close of the meeting, one committee member drafted proposed language in the Zoom chat feature: "identify and remove structurally discriminatory rules in the Bylaws and seek to improve representation that reflects the diversity of the faculty."

New Business:

Though no actual business was brought forward, Moriah Kirdy suggested that the committee consider establishing a standing committee for part-time faculty. Chris Bonneau indicated that part-time faculty concerns could probably be addressed through the Faculty Affairs committee, which could and should have part-time faculty among its membership.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm

Next meeting: Wed, May 31, 2023, 11:00 am

Submitted by Ben Bratman, Secretary