

Bylaws and Procedures Committee

Minutes from the meeting held on Dec 17, 2020 at 1:00-2:30 pm over Zoom

Present: Nick Bircher (Chair), Sheila Alexander (Nursing), Steve Belle (Public Health), Chris Bonneau (Senate President), Ben Bratman (Law) [Secretary], Jim Cassaro (Music), Ryan Dunmire (University Counsel), Stephen Jacobus (student), EJ Milarski-Veenis (Office of Sr. Vice Chancellor for Engagement), Sushobhan Sen (Postdoctoral), Lori Molinaro (Senate Office), Paula Sherwood (Nursing), Lenore Thomas (Studio Arts), Jessica Townsend (Medicine), Cecelia Yates (Nursing),

Unable to attend: Felicia Snyder (CGS), Jahari Mercer (SGB), Kevin Conley, Kurt Summersgill

The meeting was called to order at 1 pm and a quorum ascertained.

Introductions

Minutes: Ben Bratman requested a change to the minutes from the June 2019 meeting. Ryan Dunmire should be listed as “University Counsel,” not “General Council.” Minutes were approved as corrected.

Old business:

Items in Plan for AY 2020-2021--Deferred and embedded in discussion of New Business

New Business:

Nick Bircher briefly discussed the open slot on the committee (term ending 2022), which is open to pro tem members if interested.

Discussion of Plan for AY 2020-2021—Nick Bircher identified and discussed all items listed on Plan for AY 2020-2021, which was distributed to committee members by email prior to the meeting. When he reached the issue of reviewing the length of terms of office for Senate officers, a brief discussion ensued. Chris Bonneau advocated for changing to two 2-year terms (at least for the position of President) and argued that the issue would best be addressed soon, given that he is term limited and we will be electing a new President this year. Discussion ensued on which issues on AY 2020-2021 should receive highest priority. Nick Bircher stated that the Anti-Racism Action Plan should be first priority. Some others spoke in agreement. In discussion, committee members also identified length of terms of office for Senate officers and review of grievance policies and appeals procedures as other priority items.

Discussion of Anti-Racism Action Plan—Nick Bircher introduced the four existing categories appearing as action items on the Anti-Racism Action Plan Outline, which was distributed to committee members by email prior to the meeting. In response to a question from Ben Bratman, discussion ensued on racially based flaws inherent in current faculty grievance procedures. Agreement was reached to add grievance procedures for all categories of faculty as

a fifth category on the Anti-Racism Action Plan. Some discussion also occurred as to the possibility of adding Title IX appeals to the Action Plan as well. Paula Sherwood stated that the racial implications in grievance procedures are so intertwined with the pre-existing procedural concerns that the committee should tackle both simultaneously. In closing, Nick Bircher confirmed that the Anti-Racism Action Plan, including a new category as to faculty grievance procedures, would be the lead agenda item for the January 2021 meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:29 pm.

Minutes submitted by Ben Bratman