

Bylaws and Procedures Committee

Minutes from the meeting held on February 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], Jim Cassaro (Music), Kevin Conley (Health & Rehabilitation Sciences), 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 Kirby (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], Sue Jones (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 December 7, 2022 committee meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Election of Officers

Nick announced that there have been no nominations and that the three incumbents (Nick Bircher, Chair; Cecelia Yates, Co-Chair; Ben Bratman, Secretary) will stand for re-election. Nick sought unanimous consent to re-elect the incumbent officers, and no objections or abstentions were offered.

Resolution concerning part-time faculty voting in University Senate elections

Nick explained the two alternative resolutions amending the bylaws, both of which were distributed in advance of the meeting.

Option 1 would amend only Art I, Sec. 3 to include all part-time faculty as members of the University Senate, who therefore can vote in Senate elections. (Currently, only tenured part-time faculty are automatically members; other part-time faculty must opt in.)

Option 2 would provide that same amendment but also amend Art II, Sec. 5 to make all part-time faculty eligible for election to Faculty Assembly. In addition, Option 2 provided five alternatives for amending Art VI, Sec. 1 (composition of the Executive Committee), clarifying whether and to what extent part-time faculty are eligible to serve as officers of the Senate.

Nick further clarified that the bylaws do not preclude part-time faculty from serving on committees, as the relevant provisions are silent on the matter. Robin Kear alerted the committee that some of the data in the tables concerning part-time faculty need to be updated.

In discussion, Ben Bratman expressed support for making part-time faculty eligible for election to Faculty Assembly, arguing that this would be a more inclusive approach. Leonie Finke expressed agreement.

The committee settled on a revised motion advancing option 1 (amending Art I, Sec. 3 to include all part-time faculty as members of the University Senate) plus only part of option 2 (amending Art II, Sec. 5 to allow eligibility for election to Faculty Assembly).

Robin Kear raised the concern that with eligibility for Faculty Assembly membership comes ability to run for Senate office, thereby meaning that the committee has to address the question of eligibility of part-time faculty to serve as a Senate officer. Chris Bonneau expressed his opposition to eligibility of part-time faculty to serve as a Senate officer. Ben Bratman expressed the view that, if part-time faculty are not allowed to serve as an officer, all part-time faculty should be subject to the same restriction.

Robin Kear further clarified that the relevant section of the bylaws concerning eligibility for serving as an officer is Art. I, Sec. 4, which was not addressed in either of the proposed resolutions.

Sheila Alexander suggested tabling the matter until the next meeting so as to ensure the proper amendments are made to the bylaws. Nick confirmed the consensus of the committee on what it sought to achieve: include all part-time faculty in the University Senate and make all part-time faculty eligible for election to Faculty Assembly but restrict all part-time faculty from service as a Senate officer. No vote or further action was taken on either of the resolutions or on any motions concerning the resolutions.

New Business

Invitation to Ron Idoko to address the committee

Nick reported that there would be a separately scheduled meeting at which the committee would hear from Ron Idoko from the School of Social Work on anti-racism strategies. Chantele Mitchell Miland has agreed to arrange the meeting.

Committee input on Senate Bylaws One-Drive organization

A brief discussion ensued on a plan to store all of the committee's documents on One-Drive. No objections were raised.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm

Next meeting: Wed, Mar 1, 2023, 11:00 am

Submitted by Ben Bratman, Secretary