

Bylaws and Procedures Committee  
Minutes  
January 26, 2024

Present: Nick Bircher (Medicine) [Co-Chair]; Cecelia Yates (Nursing) [Co-Chair]; Ben Bratman (Law) [Secretary]; Amy Flick (English); Gosia Fort (HSLs); Lori Molinaro (Senate Office); Chantele Mitchell-Miland (UPPDA); Robin Kear (Library System) [Senate President]; Moriah Kirby (English); EJ Milarski-Veenis (Education) [Staff Council]; Paula Sherwood (Nursing); Jessica Townsend (Medicine) [Staff Council]; Marty Levine (guest—University Times)

1. Call to order and for quorum (action may be deferred if quorum not present). 12:02 pm
2. Approval of minutes: December 8, 2023. Two committee members abstained from an otherwise unanimous approval.
3. Old Business:

*Further discussion of proposed resolution regarding Caucuses*

Revised draft resolution was distributed before meeting. Nick began going over changes—first, the editorial changes to preamble clause about limited access to representation for underrepresented groups. Robin Kear asked about substance of provision, i.e. how it's appropriate to use language “limited access to representation,” pointing out that Assembly representatives are democratically elected, and anyone can run or speak to their school's or unit's Assembly representative. The numbers show under representation, but there is not “limited access.” Robin also expressed concern about duplication of effort because of overlaps with committees.

Chantele Mitchell-Miland pointed out that members of certain historically marginalized minority groups often have specific interests or perspectives that are not necessarily understood by others, and not represented by any given committee.

Additional discussion ensued about the procedure by which caucuses would bring issues of concern to the Assembly or to a committee. Robin Kear pointed out that subcommittees can already pull in pro tem members or others with expertise, which may address some of the impetus for caucuses.

Nick proceeded through subsequent sections—first, to Purpose, where Nick asked if the committee supports adding a provision stating a purpose to avoid duplicative efforts with committees. Some discussion ensued about that subject and more generally about the potential overlaps with committees. Additional discussion ensued about whether “affinity group” instead of “caucus” better

captures the goal of the proposal. Nick announced that he would edit the proposal to shift more toward the idea of affinity groups.

4. New Business: None

5. Next meeting: Fourth Friday in February: February 23, 2024, 12:00 pm

6. Adjournment. 12:58 pm