

RESOLUTION TO authorize the appointment of an Ad-hoc Senate Institutional Review Committee

To: The Faculty Senate Executive Committee

From: Bylaws Committee

Date proposed to FSEC: April 6, 2022

Date approved by the FSEC: April 13, 2022

Effective date: April 13, 2022

Whereas, the charge of the Senate Bylaws Committee is to “review, report and recommend to the senate matters concerning amendments to the Charter of the Faculty Senate and to the bylaws of the voting faculty, and matters concerning bylaws, standing orders and special orders of the senate”;

Whereas, periodic reviews are widely recognized as an effective element of institutional assessment and improvement;

Whereas, all UB degree programs that are not subject to external professional accreditation processes undergo periodic comprehensive program reviews (<https://www.buffalo.edu/catt/program/review.html>);

Whereas, administrators, faculty, and staff all undergo periodic performance reviews;

Whereas, the Bylaws Committee lacks the resources and specific charge to conduct a thorough review of the organization and functioning of the Faculty Senate;

Whereas, the Bylaws Committee has identified aspects of the organization and functioning of the Faculty Senate that merit review, including:

- Organization of committees and relationship to the FSEC and FS
- Structure of FS leadership
- Diversity of representation on the FS and its committees
- Use of technology to improve conduct of FS business;

Whereas, UB’s Office of Institutional Analysis (OIA) is charged with “the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative information on the institution, its students, its faculty, its programs, its publics, its practices and its services” and “provides analytic support for the planning, evaluation and policy initiatives of the Provost and senior leadership;”

Whereas, the FSEC has the authority to establish ad-hoc committees (FS Charter VI, F. 4);

Therefore Be It Resolved That, the FSEC will

- issue a call for volunteers from among the whole faculty to form an Ad-hoc Senate Institutional Review Committee that will take charge of conducting a thorough review of Senate organization and functions, including but not limited to the matters listed above;
- appoint members of the ad-hoc committee and, in consultation with the committee, establish a set of goals, deadlines, and budget for the review by May 16, 2022;
- encourage the committee to draw upon the staff and informational resources of the OIA, in consultation with its leadership and the university administrators it reports to;
- charge the ad-hoc committee to include in its final report a recommendation about whether the bylaws and standing orders should be amended to include a provision specifying the frequency and procedures for future periodic reviews.