



Faculty Senate By laws Committee Meeting
January 24, 2022
Zoom Hall

Attendance: John Beatty, Kristin Stapleton, Brooke Lerner, Barbara Prinari and Jessy Alexander.

Time: Meeting commenced at 11.10am

Election of committee Chair: Kristin S. was unanimously elected as Chair of the bylaws committee.

The goal set before the committee by the Chair was to define how the committee could contribute to the effective functioning of the FS. Since this was the first meeting, the Chair suggested that the committee use this meeting as a brainstorming session.

The committee members brought together ideas from other peer institutions such as Kentucky, Penn State, Maryland, Stony Brook and Colorado.

Based on research and experiences the concerns are:

- (a) Faculty Senate needs to be more engaged and committees more invigorated.
- (b) There needs to be a continuity of mission.
- (c) Leadership structure needs to be revamped. For example – Have a Vice Chair. Hold elections early and have an Incoming Chair. Require participation from the past-chair, current Chair and incoming Chair, during meetings and decision making thereby maintaining a continuity.
- (d) UB FS needs to have increased involvement in University matters thereby decreasing the time from when the matter is brought to attention to the time of action.
- (e) Administration needs to be given regular feedback.
- (f) Delay in processing when matters are brought to the table: Two readings in the FSEC and two readings in the FS causes delays especially during March/April and will have to be tabled to the next academic year.

(g) Secretary and chairs of most important committees, such as Academic Policies and Budget, should join the FS chair in meetings with the administration and in generating the agenda.

(h) Elections should be held on time and as per the bylaws.

Suggestions:

(a) Target few choice concerns (low-hanging fruit) and formulate specific recommendations this semester.

(b) Identify an ad hoc committee to do a self-study for a holistic evaluation and to address the best practices. Consider specifying a regular schedule (perhaps every ten years) for conducting a self-study.

(c) Change standing orders so that all committee Chairs or designates attend the FSEC meetings to report on their work regularly.

(d) Recognize the service of the Chair, Vice Chair (if the position is created), and Secretary with appropriate compensation, including the possibility of course release.

(e) Increase the use of technology. All committee reports need to be put on the web so that senators can study them before the meetings. Penn State's FS website includes a way for senators to report that they will be absent, as well as other useful features.

(f) Invite Phil Glick, prior chair, to join the committee and provide a historical perspective on the FS

Next meeting: February 14th at 11 am by zoom. Bring your ideas for specific changes to the Bylaws and Standing Orders. If possible, share them with the committee in advance of our meeting.

Memoirs submitted by Jessy Alexander, revised and approved by the committee on Feb 14, 2022.