

University at Buffalo Faculty Senate

Resolution 2026.2.17.8

From: Bylaws Committee

To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Re: Resolution of conflict in standing committee procedures

Date: February 5, 2026

Date Forwarded by FSEC to Senate: February 10, 2026

Date of First Reading: 2/17/2026

Date of Second Reading: 4/21/2026

Action at Second Reading: Passed (Yea: 66, Nay: 0)

Background

In the course of its work, this Committee has discovered a conflict between the Charter of the Faculty Senate and the Standing Orders of the Faculty Senate regarding changes to standing committees.

Section VI.1.F.5 of the Charter reads:

5. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Senate's Committee on Committees. It shall write the charges, determine the size and composition, and appoint the members of all Senate committees, both standing and ad hoc. It shall also nominate members of the Voting Faculty to serve on non-Senate committees and other bodies which seek Senate representation.

Section 2.A of the Charter reads:

- A. Standing Committees. The standing committees of the Senate, other than those specified in subparagraph 2.B. below, and their charges, shall be listed in the Standing Orders of the Senate.

The listed committees are Bylaws and Elections. All other standing committee charges are in the Standing Orders, Section 6.C..

Section 8.C of the Standing Orders requires a vote of the full Senate to amend any section of the Standing Orders. "Amendments shall be adopted upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the Senators present or voting in a regular or special meeting of the Senate, a quorum being present."

This conflict has created uncertainty as to the proper procedure for creation, disbanding, or modification to charges of standing committees.

The Committee thinks a reasonable interpretation is that ad hoc committees are the province of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, but that changes to standing committees should require the assent of the Senate.

Recommendations

The Bylaws Committee recommends that the Charter of the Faculty Senate be amended to make explicit the requirement of a full Senate vote to create, disband, or make changes to standing committees.

The Committee proposes that art. VI, par 1.F.5 be updated to read (additions in red):

5. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Senate's Committee on Committees. It shall write the charges, determine the size and composition, and appoint the members of all Senate committees, both standing and ad hoc. It shall also nominate members of the Voting Faculty to serve on non-Senate committees and other bodies which seek Senate representation.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, creation, disbanding, modifying the charge, or any other changes to standing committees that requires a change to the committee description in the Standing Orders shall require the approval of the Faculty Senate in the same manner as any other update to the Standing Orders.

Procedure

Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by petition of ten percent of the UB Faculty Senate, petition of ten percent of the Voting Faculty, or the Faculty Senate Bylaws Committee. Charter of the Faculty Senate art VIII, sec. 1. When proposed by petition, the amendments are presented to the Secretary, who forwards them to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC). FSEC forwards the proposal to the Bylaws Committee for consideration and recommendation. Charter of the Faculty Senate art. VIII, sec. 2.

FSEC, after receiving the report from the Bylaws Committee, forwards the proposed amendment and its recommendation to the Faculty Senate. If FSEC fails to act on and transmit the proposed amendment within 60 days of the Secretary's receipt, the Secretary shall transmit the proposed amendment to the Senate, where its consideration "shall take precedence over any item on the agenda for that Senate meeting." Charter of the Faculty Senate art. VIII, sec. 2.

Amendments proposed by the Bylaws Committee or by petition of members of the Faculty Senate are adopted upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Senators present and voting in a regular or special meeting of the Senate. Charter of the Faculty Senate art VIII, sec.3, 4. This vote should follow the ordinary procedure for Senate Resolutions, which requires two readings absent a ruling by the Chair or a motion to suspend the rules. *See* Standing Orders of the Faculty Senate sec. 5.

Amendments may not be adopted between May 1 and September 30. Charter of the Faculty Senate art. VIII, sec. 7.

Submitted,
John Beatty, Bylaws Committee Chair

Resolution to update the Charter of the Faculty Senate to clarify the procedure for making changes to standing committees

Resolved, art. VI, par 1.F.5 of the Charter of the Faculty Senate be updated to read:

5. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Senate's Committee on Committees. It shall write the charges, determine the size and composition, and appoint the members of all Senate committees, both standing and ad hoc. It shall also nominate members of the Voting Faculty to serve on non-Senate committees and other bodies which seek Senate representation.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, creation, disbanding, modifying the charge, or any other changes to standing committees that requires a change to the committee description in the Standing Orders shall require the approval of the Faculty Senate in the same manner as any other update to the Standing Orders.