

2018-2019 Year-End Committee Report

Committee:	Governance
Charge:	Establishes and proposes changes to the Senate Bylaws as necessary.
Chair:	Laurel Harbrdige-Yong
# of Meetings:	2 in person meetings (fall and spring) plus additional communication via email over language of proposed bylaws revisions.

Completed Business and/or Accomplishments

The Governance Committee drafted language that revised the bylaws of the Faculty Senate. These changes were adopted at the February 2019 meeting of the Senate. The revisions covered the following areas:

- 1) Adding a process for a vote of no confidence in the Senate President (Article III, Section 8).
- 2) Authorizing the Executive Committee to serve as a nominations committee for President-Elect (Article III, Section 3).
- 3) Providing voting rules for instances in which there are more than 2 candidates for President-Elect (Article III, Section 3).
- 4) Technical edits to bring other language into accordance with the previous changes (Article III, Section 7).

The Governance Committee also discussed revisions to the Faculty Assembly Bylaws and drafted a set of proposed revisions (see Appendix A). These revisions included updates/corrections to the titles of faculty who are included in the membership of the Assembly (and thus the Senate), the frequency of meetings of the Assembly, clarifying the role of the Assembly versus Senate, and title corrections in how Senate leaders are referenced. At the request of the Board, who wants to ensure that these changes align with edits to the University Statutes, we did not move forward with bringing these to the spring Assembly meeting.

Unfinished/Continuing Business

Top of the list should be returning to the Faculty Assembly Bylaws revisions and working with Central administration to ensure that these changes align with edits to the University Statutes. The primary concerns driving attention to the list of faculty titles are representation of NTE faculty and attentiveness to which groups are not included in the definition of faculty (e.g., new clinical health workers brought into Northwestern Medicine as part of merger with suburban medical practices). The other concern driving these revisions is current confusion in the Assembly bylaws that simultaneously recognizes the Senate as the representative body of faculty and the Assembly as the ultimate legislative body. Given the potential for a unrepresentative quorum to make policy at the Assembly, we propose removing language about the Assembly being the ultimate legislative body.

New Business for Next Year

Other issues/questions that came up from committee members but were not addressed this year include the following:

- 1) Ensure that is clarity over who can vote for the NTE Faculty Senate Representative. (This should be helped by the proposed revisions to the Assembly bylaws but also needs to be transmitted more clearly to faculty).
- 2) Should there be a cap on the percent of NTE Senators from each school (no more than 50%? No more than fraction in school as a whole?)? Concern is both about some schools putting the burden for service on NTE (bigger concern) and making sure Senate represents both tenure and NTE views in relation to their proportions in the university (smaller concern).

Appendix A: Current Draft of Faculty Assembly Bylaws Revisions

Amendments to the Faculty Assembly Bylaws:

Goals: To update Faculty Assembly Bylaws to (a) more clearly define membership (especially as it relates to changes in titles of NTE faculty) and (b) better align bylaws with how the Assembly has been run in practice. Items with strikethrough are removed, items in italics are added.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: The membership of the Faculty Assembly consists of all full-time regular faculty members in both tenure track and non-tenure track positions, *full-time research and librarian faculty, and administrators with faculty appointments in any of the above roles. It includes faculty in each of the Colleges (Bienen School of Music, Feinberg School of Medicine, Kellogg School of Management, Pritzker School of Law, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, Medill School of Journalism,*

Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, School of Education and Social Policy, School of Communication, School of Professional Studies, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, and NU-Q) and libraries. This includes clinical and lecturer faculty who hold the rank of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Clinical Professor, Clinical Associate Professor, Clinical Assistant Professor, Professor of Instruction, Distinguished Senior Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, or Lecturer, as well as administrators with a faculty appointment within the University in one of the ranks listed above.

Section 2: ~~While the~~ *The Faculty Senate is the elected, representative body of the faculty, when the Faculty Assembly is convened with a quorum (10% of membership), it becomes the ultimate legislative body of the faculty at Northwestern University. The Faculty Assembly is convened with a quorum when 10% of membership (as calculated by the Faculty Senate at the beginning of each academic year and agreed to and approved by the Senate) is present. A quorum is required to pass resolutions or amend the bylaws (see Article V).*

Article III: Officers

Section 1: The University President serves as the Chair of the Faculty Assembly. ~~The Chair President of the Faculty Senate~~ serves as the Vice Chair.

Article IV: Executive Committee

Section 1: The Executive Committee of the Faculty Assembly consists of the President of the University, the Provost, the *Vice Provost for Academics, the Associate Provost for Faculty Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs*, the ~~Chair President of the Faculty Senate~~, the ~~Past chair President of the Faculty Senate~~, and the ~~chair~~President-Elect of the Faculty Senate.

Section 3: The Executive Committee will be available to convene on an emergency basis in addition to regularly scheduled, quarterly meetings, *which may coincide with the Faculty Senate summit meetings with Central Administration.*

Article V: Meetings

Section 1: The University President will preside over meetings of the Faculty Assembly. The Faculty Senate Chair, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will establish its agenda and convene meetings at fixed dates at least ~~twice~~ *once* a year.