

## **2024-2025 Year-End Committee Report**

<b>Committee:</b>	Governance
<b>Charge:</b>	Proposes changes to Bylaws of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly as necessary.
<b>Chair:</b>	Ceci Rodgers
<b># of Meetings:</b>	2

### **Completed Business and/or Accomplishments**

--We considered drafts of two proposals left over from the previous academic year (see 2023-24 Governance Committee year-end report). The first proposal was to change the wording on how to call a Faculty Assembly meeting. It specified the required information in the request to call a meeting and how faculty would be verified. After consulting with the FS secretary and reviewing past efforts to call Faculty Assembly meetings, the committee took no action on this proposal. The second proposal was to add a section to the bylaws stating how resolutions can be brought to the Faculty Senate. The procedures for doing so are on the Faculty Senate website but not included in the bylaws. The committee decided against acting on this proposal.

--We met several days before the spring Faculty Assembly meeting, in which a resolution from NU AAUP was added to the agenda. We discussed the number needed for a quorum (10% of full-time NU faculty) and whether a vote could be taken without a quorum. NU AAUP emailed the Faculty Senate president stating that the Assembly bylaws had been changed in 2012 to allow for a vote on a resolution without a quorum. The committee read the minutes of the meeting in question in 2012. The minutes stated that the change to the Assembly bylaws had passed the Senate unanimously; however, the minutes also stated that 50 of 85 members attended, which fell short of the 2/3 majority of the **full** Faculty Senate required to change the bylaws. This meant that the 2010 bylaws remained in force. These are displayed on the Faculty Senate website. Oddly, the minutes of that 2012 meeting were never corrected to reflect that the vote had failed.

### **Unfinished/Continuing Business**

--Engagement with the Board of Trustees. There was an annual lunch gathering of the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees until 2023. The committee discussed how to restore/increase engagement going forward. We decided to ask the chair of the survey committee if they could add a question about this in the annual internal Senate survey and they agreed to do so.

--How many committees a senator may serve on. The committee began discussing a bylaws addition that would stipulate how many committees a senator may serve on. We talked about whether senators should only serve on one committee as a voting member or whether they could serve on two committees. This is unresolved but should get further consideration, including research on how many committee memberships are allowed at peer institution Faculty Senates.

--Amendments to the bylaws – procedure. Our parliamentarian proposed language to the bylaws stipulating that any proposed amendments must first be considered by the governance committee before going to the full Senate. The committee felt this wasn't urgent but could be reconsidered at a future date.

### **New Business for Next Year**

The spring Faculty Assembly meeting achieved a quorum for the first time in its history and the body voted to approve a resolution brought by NU AAUP. There were some important questions that arose from this, including the Assembly's operational structure (it's currently assumed that the Faculty Senate secretary is also the Assembly secretary, but it's not explicit in the bylaws). Is there or should there be an Assembly parliamentarian? How do we ensure that participating faculty members are verified – both for attendance and for votes? The last question is crucial going forward, given that some in the faculty have trouble using technology for secure voting (or their technology decides to be glitchy at that moment). Next year's committee might want to consult with the Faculty Senate secretary, the past president and others to better understand the issues that arose from the spring Faculty Assembly.

Another important governance question that came up at the very end of spring quarter was how to handle senator substitutions in the Faculty Senate. While Robert's Rules covers this, Senate leadership and staff suggested it would be clearer for everyone involved if it were codified in the Senate bylaws.