

Faculty Senate Committee on Rules
Response to Charges

Rules Committee members: Seth Hoelscher (chair), Terrel Gallaway, Kartik Ghosh, Beth Walker, Lanya Lamouria (*ex officio*), Cindy MacGregor (*ex officio*)

Charge # 5

Review and Clarification/Updating of Role of Committee on Academic Relations (ART I, SEC 9.3)

The current description and charge of the Academic Relations Committee in the Bylaws seems too vague to be effective in either “reviewing institutional quality of academic standards and instructional methodology” or “evaluating and promoting faculty development programs and development.” It may be that the membership of the committee needs to be updated to reflect current institutional practice in development and methodology (for some time, for example, the head of the FCTL has served on the committee, but that is not a requirement listed in the Bylaws).

Another possibility is that because some of the charge of this committee is overlapped by other committees (most notably, Faculty Concerns and the various entities responsible for overseeing curriculum), the Academic Relations Committee might be reconceived as a committee responsible for reviewing curricular processes (see charges 2 and 3), as a committee concerned only with faculty development, or disbanded.

Description:

Faculty governance should provide oversight of academic support throughout the university. During the deliberation regarding Charge #5, the committee identified several areas of concern that warrant the preservation of the Academic Relations Committee. Furthermore, these areas of concern suggest the need for the committee to be revamped and revitalized.

Recommendation by Committee:

The Committee recommends *no* changes to the *Bylaws*. The Committee does recommend the following: The faculty senate executive committee should form an ad hoc committee concerning academic concerns. The faculty leadership should also discuss with the new Provost that faculty should have a voice in budgetary decisions related to academic support.

Potential areas (not all inclusive) include:

- CAW process and system
- Continued support for teaching and pedagogical practices across the campus
- Library resources and budget
- Technology decisions (e.g., LMS)

Current Language of the Bylaws

ART I Faculty Senate

SEC 3 Committees of the Faculty Senate

(3) Committee on Academic Relations

(a) Purpose

(aa) Shall review institutional quality of academic standards and instructional methodology.

(bb) Shall evaluate and promote faculty development programs and procedures.

(b) Membership

Members and the committee chair are appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate. The Senate Chair Elect shall be an *ex officio* member of the Academic Relations Committee without vote. In addition, the Registrar or his/her designee shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Academic Relations Committee without vote.