

Proposal 1

As part of an overall strategy to reflect the changing landscape of the School of Liberal Arts, as well as to economize faculty participation in School of Liberal Arts committees, the ad-hoc Bylaws Review Committee recommends the following action items for consideration by the Faculty:

1.A. A reduction in the regular membership of standing appointed committees

Current situation:

Most appointed standing committees within the School of Liberal Arts include five faculty members (exceptions: the Library Committee and Technology Committee) in addition to an Agenda Council representative and various non-voting members.

Proposal:

Appointed standing committees will consist of four faculty members appointed by the Agenda Council, along with other members as stated in the SLA bylaws.

Rationale:

As our SLA faculty body shrinks, with more departures expected for the coming years, there are fewer faculty members available to serve on School committees. Therefore, reducing committee size across the board seems imperative.

Known and expected benefits:

The goal of this overall reduction in committee size is to maximize the quality of faculty participation in School committees. With nine existing standing committees that would be affected by this change, this would mean that the nine members cut from those committees would be available to serve on other committees, and consequently, it would maximize greater opportunity for a wider range of faculty to participate in faculty governance.

1.B. Updates to Teaching and Advising Committee

Current situation:

Section 4.h. Teaching and Advising Committee

1. The Teaching and Advising Committee shall recommend policies on the evaluation of teaching and advising to the Faculty Assembly; develop activities for the improvement of teaching and advising within the School; select recipients of teaching awards; and serve as a resource on teaching and advising issues to individual faculty, departments, programs, and administration of the School of Liberal Arts.
2. The Committee shall consist of five faculty, a designated Agenda Council representative, and a non-voting School administrative offer designated by the Dean.

Proposal:

The description of this Committee will be updated to include language about online teaching. Additionally, a student member will be added to the Committee.

Section 4.h. Teaching and Advising Committee

1. The Teaching and Advising Committee shall recommend policies on the evaluation of teaching and advising to the Faculty Assembly; develop activities for the improvement of teaching and advising within the School; select recipients of teaching awards; and serve as a resource on teaching and advising issues related to both face-to-face and online courses to individual faculty, departments, programs, and administration of the School of Liberal Arts.
2. The Committee shall consist of four faculty, a designated Agenda Council representative, a non-voting School administrative offer designated by the Dean, and a student.

Rationale:

With the ever increasing importance of online courses across the School, the need for this committee to address issues specifically related to electronic delivery of instruction has become vital for the future of the School. Faculty who teach in the classroom and online know very well how the two modes of instruction present distinct challenges, and the evaluation of courses and instructors must reflect these differences.

Additionally, as a committee that functions as a resource for promoting excellent teaching, it is clear that there ought to be a member on this committee to represent the population that is strongly impacted by faculty teaching, our students.

Known and expected benefits:

Strategically appointed faculty with expertise in online teaching will enhance the committee's ability to evaluate faculty nominated for teaching awards, to sponsor activities intended to promote best practices for online teaching, and to offer pertinent recommendations for improved online teaching in the School. Additionally, a student member on the committee will provide a much needed perspective on teaching activities.

1.C. Creation of standing Marketing and External Affairs Committee

Current situation:

The current SLA committee for external relations is an ad-hoc committee.

Proposal:

Create the Marketing and External Affairs Committee as a new standing appointed committee.

Section 4.X. Marketing and External Affairs Committee

1. The Marketing and External Affairs Committee shall identify marketing and branding strategies focused specifically on the School of Liberal Arts as a way to increase student enrollment in SLA core courses, encourage majors and minors in SLA degree programs, as well as building the reputation of the School to promote donations, scholarships, and sponsorships.

2. The Committee shall be composed of seven members: four faculty members, a designated Agenda Council representative, a non-voting School administrative officer designated by the Dean, and a student.

Rationale:

Given the realities of higher education in the 21st Century, a regular standing committee devoted to external promotion of the School—its faculty, its students, and its vital role in the community and state—is a critical necessity. The committee will be charged with designing and implementing action plans relevant to and beneficial for the value of the liberal arts, and its activities should help produce increases in enrollments, declared minors and majors, and gifts. Rather than a short-term fix for a transitory challenge, this committee should be constituted as a standing committee so that its work may develop over time, especially by establishing long-term connections with regional partners (e.g., IPS and township schools) and with sources of external funding and gifts. It should work to establish ongoing projects and programs for enhancing the visibility of the school and its unique contributions to the community, and it should work with the staff of Enrollment Services to initiate a systematic program for recruiting students to the School of Liberal Arts. As an outcome of a standing committee, work will extend from year to year, building on previous years' gains, and providing continuity for multi-year plans and projects.

Known and expected benefits:

There are excellent examples of how liberal arts colleges and universities across the country have taken positive steps to promote the value and benefit of a liberal arts education, and this committee can focus on the most successful of these models, adapting them to the specificities of the IU School of Liberal Arts, and recommending specific courses of action. Furthermore, this committee could work to enact specific goals set forth in the School's strategic plan and stated vision. With a standing committee dedicated to activities that promote and publicize the excellent work of the School, the efforts to attract college-bound students to our programs should be more successful, and, as a result, enrollments at all levels of coursework should increase over time. Furthermore, a growing number of scholarships and experiential opportunities from area partners will also enhance recruitment efforts, and attract more academically talented students to our programs. A set of long-term marketing strategies in the Midwest region to raise awareness of the quality of our programs should produce gains in student numbers, and eventually make the IU School of Liberal Arts a school of choice for new and transfer students to our campus.

1.D. A redefinition of membership of Nominating Committee

Current situation:

The Nominating Committee currently consists of five elected faculty members.

Section 3.b. Nominating Committee

1. The Committee shall prepare slates: of candidates for Agenda Council and for elected positions for presentation no later than the second spring semester meeting of the Faculty Assembly, of candidates to fill vacancies on the Agenda Council or elected positions between regular elections, of candidates for School representatives to the IUPUI Faculty Council, and of candidates for other elections that may from time to

- time become necessary.
2. The Committee shall be composed of five members of the faculty.

Proposal:

The Nominating Committee will consist of four elected faculty members and one Agenda Council representative.

Section 3.b. Nominating Committee

1. The Committee shall prepare slates of candidates for Agenda Council and for elected positions for presentation no later than the second spring semester meeting of the Faculty Assembly, of candidates to fill vacancies on the Agenda Council or elected positions between regular elections, of candidates for School representatives to the IUPUI Faculty Council, and of candidates for other elections that may from time to time become necessary.
2. The Committee shall be composed of five members: four elected members of the faculty and one Agenda Council representative.

Rationale:

In line with the rationale articulated above focusing on the reality of the decrease in full-time resident faculty, the reduction of elected faculty members for this committee will free up opportunities for service on other committees and for participation in faculty governance in the School.

Known and expected benefits:

Finding willing candidates to run for election has been a particularly challenging undertaking recently, and a reduction of one faculty member will make the task somewhat less complicated. It must be noted, however, that with the addition of one member of the Agenda Council to serve on the committee, the strength of the committee will not be diminished, and the variety of representation from the faculty body will be as broad as it has been in the past.