

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

A redefinition of membership of the 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 officer designated by the Dean.

Proposal:

The description of this Committee will be updated in the following way:

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 officer designated by the Dean, and a student (non-voting). The student member will be appointed annually by the Agenda Council, in consultation with the Committee.

Rationale:

Because of the recent declines in full-time resident faculty, defining membership of this committee as four faculty members and one Agenda Council representative (plus additional members as indicated) will free up opportunities for willing faculty to serve on other committees and to participate in faculty governance in the School. Previously, as indicated above, the committee membership included five full-time faculty and one Agenda Council representative, who was appointed at the beginning of the new term for the newly elected president and the in-coming Agenda Council representatives. The revision here keeps five full-time faculty on the committee, with one being the Agenda Council representative who is appointed by Agenda Council, while making more openings available for service on other committees to interested faculty.

The addition of a student member acknowledges that there ought to be a member on this committee to represent the population that is strongly impacted by faculty teaching, our students. This student member will not have voting privileges but can advocate on behalf of students during regular meetings of this committee.

Known and expected benefits:

Due in part to the recent decline in the number of full-time faculty, finding willing faculty to serve on committees has become a particularly challenging undertaking most recently. Defining the membership of this committee in the way articulated in this proposal will help Faculty Assembly to find the needed members to join this important committee. Indeed, as indicated in the "Rationale" paragraph above, the reduction of one full-time faculty member will make the task of finding those willing to serve somewhat less complicated and even burdensome for those tasked with finding potential volunteers. The variety of representation from the faculty body should remain as broad as it has been in the past. Additionally, a student member on the committee will provide a much-needed perspective on teaching activities. This person will be able to advise committee faculty on the best or most productive actions for all concerned.