

The ad-hoc Bylaws Review Committee recommends the following action item for consideration by the Faculty:

Updates to Faculty Affairs Committee

Current situation:

Although SLA faculty voted last year to endorse associate faculty representation in the Faculty Affairs Committee, this has not yet been formalized in the committee description that appears in the Bylaws.

There are standing rules for this committee, which appear in Article VII, Section 2.a of the Bylaws, separate from the committee description in Article IV.

Section 4.c. Faculty Affairs Committee

1. The Faculty Affairs Committee shall consider questions, policies, procedures and cases concerning conditions of faculty employment, professional conduct, professional rights and responsibilities, and oversee designated School of Liberal Arts awards.
2. The Committee shall consist of seven members: five faculty, a designated Agenda Council representative, and a non-voting School administrative officer designated by the Dean. By majority vote of committee members, the School officer may be excused from certain committee deliberations.

Section 2.a. Faculty Affairs Committee

1. The Committee shall follow the “Procedure for Handling Student Complaints Against Academic Personnel” established in 1984 when considering specific cases referred to it by the Dean.
2. The Committee shall at the beginning of each academic year appoint appropriate subcommittees to make the following awards: Outstanding Faculty Member, Outstanding Lecturer, Outstanding Associate Faculty Member, and Distinguished Student awards. Sub-committee members need not be from the Faculty Affairs Committee. Guidelines for these awards shall be announced annually by the Committee.

Proposal:

An associate faculty member will be added to the description of membership of this committee. The standing rules for this committee will be integrated with the committee description.

Section 4.c. Faculty Affairs Committee

1. The Faculty Affairs Committee shall consider questions, policies, procedures and cases concerning conditions of faculty employment, professional conduct, and professional rights and responsibilities. Additionally, the Committee shall oversee certain School of Liberal Arts awards, including the following: Outstanding Tenure-line Faculty, Outstanding Lecturer, Outstanding Associate Faculty, and Distinguished Student

- awards. Guidelines for these awards shall be announced annually by the Committee.
2. The Committee shall follow the “Procedure for Handling Student Complaints Against Academic Personnel” established in 1984 when considering specific cases referred to it by the Dean.
 3. The Committee shall consist of seven members: four full-time faculty, an associate faculty member, a designated Executive Committee representative (all six with voting privileges), and a non-voting School administrative officer designated by the Dean. By majority vote of committee members, the School officer may be excused from certain committee deliberations.
 4. Each spring the Executive Committee will invite volunteers from the School's associate faculty and appoint one continuing associate faculty member for a one-year term, renewable for up to three terms. The associate faculty representative will need to be ratified by the majority vote of those present and voting at the first fall Faculty Assembly (see Art. 1, Sec. 1). The inability of the Executive Committee to appoint an interested and qualified associate faculty member shall in no way inhibit the ability of the committee to function.

Rationale:

Associate instructors are valued members of the SLA faculty and deserve to have a voice in committee discussions about faculty employment, professional conduct, and professional rights and responsibilities. Last year, at the April meeting of Faculty Assembly, SLA faculty voted to endorse a proposal from the Faculty Affairs Committee that included the addition of an associate faculty member. This proposed change to the Bylaws formalizes the outcome of this vote and establishes procedures for appointing and ratifying an associate faculty member.

The committee description and the standing rules previously appeared in different articles of the SLA Bylaws, with no indication in the committee description that standing rules exist for this committee. It seems desirable to consolidate the committee description and standing rules for purposes of clarity.

The Faculty Affairs Committee selects the recipients of faculty and student awards as a committee. No mention of subcommittees is needed in the standing rules.

Known and expected benefits:

An associate faculty member will broaden the representation of SLA faculty on this committee, allowing the associate faculty member to bring their unique perspective and voice their specific concerns during committee discussions. Additionally, having the committee description and standing rules all in one article of the Bylaws improves clarity.