

Faculty Governance Committee
September 27, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.
WebEx Meeting: ([meeting link](#))

Committee Charge: “The Committee on Faculty Governance shall review and interpret the Faculty Constitution, the By-laws of the Faculty Senate, and rules of order for the conduct of Senate business. Changes in any of these areas that are approved by this committee will be brought, by the Committee Chair, directly to the Senate for its action.”

Minutes

Members Present: Mitu Ashraf (Former Senator and Chair), David Young (Former Senator and Secretary), Aaron Vandermeer (Former Senator), Robin Snead (Unrestricted), Sherry Edwards (Former Senator), Ottis Murray (Former Senator), Gary Anderson (Unrestricted), and Carla Rokes (Unrestricted)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes of August 23, 2022 (Appendix A)

Approved by consensus.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Approved by consensus

IV. Chair Report

The Faculty Governance Committee Chair did report to the Committee members on his communication with the FERS Chair and the Faculty Senate Chair on the matter concerning the revised description of the Oversight of the Faculty Handbook Committee. The specific recommendations from the FGC are contained in the Unfinished Business section of these meeting minutes (Section b.)

V. Unfinished Business

a. **Rewording the proposal for Faculty Senate Chair and Faculty Senate Chair Pro Tempore qualifications**

Regarding this issue, the Faculty Governance Committee makes the following request of the Faculty Evaluation Review Subcommittee:

The Faculty Governance Committee requests the Faculty Evaluation Review Subcommittee to review and articulate the promotion criteria for Lecturer to Senior Lecturer. The current policy is as follows:

Promotion to Senior Lecturer is based on continued improvement in and demonstration of excellence in teaching with at least satisfactory performance in service activities. After serving as a lecturer at UNCP for five years, a Lecturer may notify the Chair of his or her department in writing that he or she wishes to apply for promotion to Senior Lecturer; the notification must be made by August 1st of the year to which the evaluation will take place. The Evaluation will follow the procedures use for promotion to professional Ranks, with the exception that the applicant's professional academic Activities may be evaluated in the place of scholarly achievement. (*Faculty Handbook*, Section II, Chapter 1, p. 44)

Based on this information, the Faculty Governance Committee asks the Faculty Evaluation Review Subcommittee to review this policy based on the following rationale:

As it stands now, the Handbook does not state clearly the various criteria that lecturers should meet to be promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer. The Faculty Governance Committee also request that you [FERS] consider a separate section in the handbook for promotion of Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.

Some Faculty Governance Committee members admitted that as of right now, that it is “difficult at best” for lecturers to go up for Senior Lecturer. Perhaps, the wording “non-tenure” faculty could be put into the promotion policy.

In the end, the Faculty Governance Committee recommends that FERS review the policies and procedures regarding the promotion of lecturers to Senior Lecturers and create a separate promotion section for this whole process in the Handbook if feasible.

At this point, further discussion ensued.

b. Changing the Description of the Oversight of the Faculty Handbook Committee

According to the Faculty Handbook, below is the current wording regarding the charge/responsibility or duties of the Oversight of the Faculty Handbook Committee:

The Committee, through its continuous review and oversight of the Faculty Handbook, shall assure the accuracy and currency of the Faculty Handbook and maintain the document and its previous versions in a digital format accessible via the Faculty Senate’s official website. The committee shall implement the acts of the Senate in the Faculty Handbook and, as necessary, edit and/or update the Faculty Handbook for consistency, accuracy, and currency. The Committee must present any such alterations to the Faculty Handbook to the Faculty Senate; with subsequent action undertaken at the pleasure of the Faculty Senate. (Source: Faculty Handbook, Article VI, Section 3 (D), p. 17)

After some discussion, the Faculty Governance Committee members suggest a proposed addition to the policy as follows:

Simple deletions, errors of correctness regarding spelling, punctuation, pronoun corrections, revisions to improve syntax or updates (e.g., Department name changes or changes to position titles) need not be brought to the Senate for approval.

At this point a motion was made to approve the action of suggesting that this wording be added to the Faculty Handbook for this Committee. The motion was seconded, and it passed by unanimous approval.

VI. New Business

None

VII. For the Good of the Order

At this point, a Faculty Governance Committee member brought forward some Constitutional Concerns that he had shared with members prior to the September 27 meeting. Specifically, the following is a summary of the key concerns raised at the meeting:

- During the pandemic, many faculty had gotten used to virtual University Committee meetings whereby there was no F2F meeting requirement
- At the last Faculty Senate meeting, meeting attendance requirements were refined. As a result of this meeting, virtual attendance for University Committees is no longer permitted and F2F attendance is mandatory
- The Faculty Governance Committee member bringing forward this concern stated that the “Faculty Senate actions under the By-Laws of the Senate may be permitted, but their specific action in making F2F attendance mandatory might be a violation of the Faculty Constitution (Article 3, Section 3)
- Further discussion ensued in the Faculty Governance Committee meeting, and it was suggested/recommended that the Senate should be instructed to “return to previous meeting requirements pending approval of changes per the General Faculty.”
- Also, the new attendance requirements for University committees (as now being F2F) might shrink the pool of available candidates running for office who were under the impression that virtual meetings were still in existence.
- Also, another Faculty Governance Committee member stated that this situation might impact responses on future faculty preference polls.

At this point, further discussion ensued, but the Faculty Governance Committee did conclude that some advance notice should have been provided to the General Faculty on this matter before the final decision was handed down at the last Senate meeting.

VIII. Announcements

None

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by David Young FGC Secretary