



Rules, Practices and Policies Committee Minutes

March 22, 2022, 10:00 to 11:00 via Zoom

Circulated:

Approved:

Present: Larry Gant, Meredith Kahn, Ella Kazerooni (Co-Chair), Ishani Maitra, Bruce Maxim, John Pasquale, Bill Schultz (Chair), Kristen Verhey, MaryJo Banasik (Faculty Senate Office)

Absent: Kate Barald, Donald Freeman (SACUA Liaison),

10:05 Co-Chair Bill Schultz called the meeting to order. The minutes from February 22, 2022 were approved.

Co-chairs Schultz and Kazerooni plan to attend SACUA on March 28 to provide a progress report.

A straw poll was put together to get a pulse on the committee. Co-chair Schultz asked committee members to complete the poll by the end of the day if possible.

10:10 Small groups reported out on their progress.

Charge 1: Electronic Voting and Meetings

Members Khan and Maitra met. They noted that the charge was to propose changes to the rules for electronic meetings. Khan and Maitra suggested that large meetings shall be virtual. They noted that electronic participation improves quorum. It was noted that hybrid is the most difficult option. They recommended fully virtual meetings for the Senate Assembly. They also noted that the current time is difficult for people with young children. People often need to leave early due to childcare needs. They indicated that SACUA meetings are more frequent and could be held in person or virtually.

It was noted that notice requirements for Senate meetings are not clear, and there are no specific rules for voting in Senate Assembly meetings.

Some support was expressed for having flexibility for Senate Assembly meetings allowing Senate Assembly the discretion to decide the format of the meeting based on the circumstances.

When discussing the current number of 100 Faculty Senate members to meet quorum, it was noted that this may be a low bar. It was questioned whether the number to achieve quorum should be increased if the Faculty Senate becomes larger.

Support was expressed for having open chat during electronic meeting to facilitate simultaneous communication, recognition, and to share links.

Charge 2: Membership: Apportionment (including campuses) curators, archivists, emeritus

There has not been a meeting yet with this group. It was noted that Dearborn and Flint are counted as a unit rather than as individual colleges. Schools are very different from each other.

Charge 3: Clinical Faculty

There has not been a meeting yet with this group.



It was argued that anyone who teaches a class should be included. It was noted that some people may have an appointment for only one semester. It was noted that people with multiple year appointments should get to serve and vote on who gets to serve.

Charge 4: LEO: There was a discussion about which lecturers tend to be more provisional and which are more permanent. There was support for including all lecturers. It was noted that there is concern by the Office of General Counsel because lecturers already have representation through LEO. Member Kahn, who is a member of GLAM, the union for librarians, indicated that unions and faculty governance can work in concert. While unions focus on working conditions, faculty governance is more advisory. It was noted that in departments people not on the tenure track do not vote on tenure decision, and it was asked whether non-tenure track faculty should vote on tenure issues. There was some agreement that the promotion process for tenure-track faculty should be overseen by tenured faculty.

Co-chair Kazerooni noted that the executive committee in the Medical School includes chairs of departments that have a lot of clinical faculty. She noted that the Medical School has done a good job of working on clinical faculty representation in the School.

10:59 Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryJo Banasik
Faculty Senate Office