

**SENATE GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT - 2006-2007**

Members: E. Martinez, M. Mwaura, E. Phadia, D. Potacco (Chair), V. Wagner, M. Yildiz,
Administrative Liaison: S. DeYoung

I. The following charges directed to the Governance Council by the Executive Council this academic year have been resolved:

Standing Charge: "Review applications for Emeritus/Emerita Status and make recommendations to the Senate"

- The following Emeritus/Emerita Resolutions were successfully passed through the Senate.
 - ✓ Dr. Jable, Emeritus
 - ✓ Dr. Gregoriou, Emeritus
 - ✓ Dr. Feldmann, Emerita, posthumously
 - ✓ Dr. Rothenberg

Charge: "Term limits for Councils and Committees"

- Two-year terms on Councils and Committees, with staggered memberships
 - ✓ All Councils agreed to two-year staggered terms.
 - ✓ The two year term requirement was incorporated into a Council and Committee Term, Responsibility, Membership, and Meeting Resolution.
 - ✓ The resolution passed the Senate

Charge: "Work with General Education and Assessment Committees to update their descriptions in the By-Laws"

- Both Committees discussed, revised and approved the 2005/2006 Committees' drafts.
- Governance adapted the documents to the Senate's Bylaws.
- Both resolutions were passed by the Senate

Charge: "Review the Faculty Constitution (Article 1, A): "No one who has been on the staff of the University for less than one full academic year shall be eligible for regular membership. Clarify if this actually results in a two year delay. Consider an amendment that would permit election at the end of one's first year of service to the University."

- The Membership Amendment was re-worded to avoid ambiguity relating to eligibility and provide a procedure for posthumous nomination.
- The resolution was passed by the Senate.

Charge: "Work with the Admissions and Academic Standards Council to divide that Council into two: Admissions and Enrollment Management, and Academic Standards. The Executive Committee considers this a top priority issue, and hopes that this can be resolved early in the Fall 2006 semester, to enable the two new Councils to operate effectively during the remainder of the academic year."

- Governance assisted the Admissions and Academic Standards Council with the development of Bylaw descriptions of the functions of the two new Councils and subsequently adapted the documents to the Senate's Bylaws.
- The resolution passed the Senate

II. The following charges directed to the Governance Council by the Executive Council this academic year are in progress and/or are recommended activities for next year.

Charge: "Continue discussion on the issue of similarities/differences between Councils and Committees, and make appropriate recommendations."

- An analysis of the distinction between Councils and Committees continued throughout the year.
- One of the outcomes was a simplification of the Bylaws by combining the term, membership and meeting commonalities between these entities under one Article covering both Council and Committees, rather than in two separate areas of the Bylaws reserved specifically for Councils and Committees.
 - ✓ The resolution "Council and Committee Term, Responsibility, Membership, and Meeting Resolution" was passed by the Senate.
- WPUNJ appears to be original in its use of both Committees and Councils in the Senate.
- There is a consensus that the provision of the constitution for Standing Committees be brought into conformity with Councils.

Charge: "Work with the Elections Council to review that Council's purpose, structure, make-up, etc. Include the Vice-Chair of the Senate in these discussions, since some of the issues raised by the Elections Council (e.g., lack of continuity of membership) may be addressed without the necessity of amending the By-Laws."

Charge: "Work with the Elections Council to resolve question regarding voting procedures, the scheduling of elections, and emergency back-up voting procedures."

- Discussed this charge with Chair of Elections at the fall Senate Chair meeting and subsequently in December.
- Elections chair noted draft was almost finished end of March. It was agreed at Spring Chair meeting that draft would be submitted to Chair of Governance next fall.

Charge: "Continue to review and make a recommendation to the Senate regarding the current Senate procedures on substitute attendees and proxy votes."

- Currently there is no procedure for substitute attendees and proxy votes.
- A procedure needs to be created and documented, along with the Elections Council, to assure equitable and reliable voting results.

Charge: "Work with Research Council to add Research and Scholarship Day to the Standing Charges of the Research Council in the Bylaws."

Charge: "Work with Research Council and the Graduate Council to see if graduate research has a place within research and scholarship day."

- Discussed this charge with Chair of Research Council at the fall Senate Chair meeting and subsequently in December.

- Research Council Chair indicated the Council was not able to complete this charge at this time due to lack of time.

III. Further activities for the following charges require reconsideration and possible re-direction by the Executive Committee.

Charge: “Work with the Graduate Council to amend the By-Laws to include wording regarding regular meetings between the Graduate Council and the Graduate Directors. Be sure to include the Vice-Chair of the Senate in the discussions (since that officer develops the Council memberships) to assure that at least a few Graduate Directors are included in the Graduate Council membership each year.”

- Discussed this need with Chair of the Graduate Council at the fall Senate Chair meeting and subsequently throughout November and December.
- The Graduate Council “voted unanimously to leave the resolution as is.” They noted that that they can not specify the frequency of their meetings with graduate directors since those meetings are scheduled by the administration and they do not know how many or when would they take place.

Charge: “Resolve a slight inconsistency in the wording of the charges of the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils in the By-Laws (f,ii and g, ii).”

- Amendment was approved by Governance and forwarded to the Graduate Council for approval.
- Graduate Council approved our draft resolution but did not provide the rationale for it.
- Governance recommends that the 2007-2008 Executive Committee determine whether the Graduate Council’s approved draft resolution meets the Executive Council’s intent.

Charge: “Work with Admissions and Academic Standards Council on Academic Integrity issues, especially the tracking of repeat violators”

- This charge should be forwarded to the new Academic Standards Council.
- The policies and procedures are in place. The Council should debate how the ‘Academic Integrity Violation’ and ‘Classroom Management Report’ for Behavior Issues’ procedures and forms can be made more readily available to faculty.

Recommendation: Since the Elections Council depends on a reliable and accurate adjunct faculty and full-time faculty email list, it is suggested that the Election Council work with the Provost and Human Resources to develop a process for keeping the list current.

IV. The following charges are not being actively pursued at this time and require clear direction from the Executive Committee before further action is pursued.

Charge: “Pending results of poll of departments regarding allowing/requiring Adjunct Faculty voting membership on departmental committees and meetings, develop a recommendation to suggest/require departments”

- An extensive discussion of this activity was pursued by the Adjunct Representative throughout the fall Senate sessions.
- The Senate's December 12, 2006 minutes recorded that the Executive Committee would work with the administration on this issue.

Charge: "Consult with the Union regarding the status of its actions regarding a motion to include Faculty representation (defined to include Librarians and Professional Staff) on the Board of Trustees. If their efforts have ceased, consider presenting an appropriate resolution to the Senate."

Respectfully Submitted,
The Governance Council