

Faculty Assembly Bylaws Revisions

-3 Standing Committees-

Ken McMurdy

November 6, 2024

Rationale:

1. Formal recognition, complete and accurate description of our organizational structure.
2. Maximize alignment between official charge, practice, and mission for each committee.
3. Empower and support the committees in their respective missions.

In order to achieve (1)-(3) and sustain healthy/optimal functioning of the committees, maximal buy-in and participation from the community are crucial. So, this is why we are seeking to stimulate robust conversation around these revisions.

Current Bylaws Status:

ARC: Already included in current FA Bylaws. However, some functions are no longer applicable or in practice. Moreover, revisions to the ARC Manual suggest and in some cases necessitate a shift in practice.

GECCo: Well-developed but separate bylaws (external to FA Bylaws) based on revised charge document approved by FA in 2016. Current practice largely consistent with those bylaws.

WAC: No official bylaws but established practice.

Key Questions:

(1) Why 3 parallel standing committees?

- 2016 GECCo charge views GECCo this way.
- ARC is sufficiently burdened without formally overseeing GECCo/WAC.
- ARC, GECCo and WAC all have core functions that they perform independently.

Preamble Language: *These committees work in concert to fulfill the Faculty Assembly's obligations regarding curricular oversight and new program evaluation, and work collaboratively with the Administration to generate new initiatives for enhancing the delivery of our academic programs.*

FAEC Oversight: Proposed language tasks FAEC with finding a resolution, should an irreconcilable dispute arise between committees as they work collaboratively.

(2) Membership Requirements:

- FAEC sees a strong argument for formally requiring in the FA Bylaws that the Chair of each subcommittee be tenured.
- It is essential that WAC have untenured voting members (CRW). GECCo has not, in practice, required tenure for all voting members. ARC currently does.
- Tenured Chair could be viewed as a minimal standard for the parallel committees.

(3) Role of Ex-officio Members: Each committee must work closely with administrators who may be designated as ex-officio members. Should we add language that conceptually delineates the role of the ex-officio members (as opposed to *ad hoc* consultation)?

(4) **Key questions** for each of the 3 committees:

- Membership
- Duties of the Chair
- Functions of the Committee

Bylaws Revision Process:

(Section) draft to be posted prior to November FA meeting. *Pre*-draft will remain on the FA agenda page until then. Actual vote will take place at the December FA meeting (per the revision process in the current FA Bylaws).

Please give feedback on the pre-draft to your FAEC Unit Representative, so that the draft posted in November will already be optimal.

Revisions to 11/6 Draft:

- Tenure requirement for all chairs. Retain tenure requirement for ARC unit reps.
- 2-year terms, renewable once.
- Removed references to specific schools when possible, given uncertainty around school structures. (Specific GE category references retained for GECCo.)

Revision Process Per Current Bylaws (Article VIII):

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote in the Faculty Assembly by electronic ballot, provided that (1) the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous Faculty Assembly meeting, and (2) that there is a quorum at the Faculty Assembly meeting. The bylaws may be temporarily amended for the length of a particular Faculty Assembly meeting by a motion on the floor passed by a 2/3 majority.