

Faculty Guide and Bylaws Committee

REPORT

Nov. 15, 2021

The Faculty Guide and Bylaws Committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting – on Oct. 13, Oct. 27, and Nov. 10th. The Committee discussed and approved proposed changes to article 15, reviewed the Faculty Guide Editing Group's suggestions with regard to article 11, finalized language proposing the creation of a post-doctoral fellow position and discussed several inquiries regarding the faculty guide addressed to the committee.

The Committee is bringing to the Senate its proposed updates to article 11 for a first reading. The new language in the draft is highlighted in green. The article concerns College Governance, and the most significant alteration is the addition of a section outlining the role of Faculty Assemblies as the main venue for college governance. The Committee is also bringing to the Senate for a first reading new language in articles three and four creating a post-doctoral fellow position. Post-doctoral fellows would be hired primarily to engage in scholarly research. Contracts would be for one year, renewable to a maximum of three years at the University.

Several queries were addressed to the Faculty Guide Committee co-chairs over the past month. One, from the chair of the A+S Rank and Tenure Committee concerned whether senior term faculty (Lecturers and Faculty Associates) needed to be reviewed by the rank and tenure committee every time their contract was renewed. The answer, which the Provost's office confirmed, was that this was not necessary. Promotion to senior lecturer or faculty associate is a one-time event in which the R+T Committee participates. Renewal of contracts on the senior level is a separate recurring process carried out by the faculty member's department and dean.

The Committee was asked whether there was anything in the guide that might be applicable in relieving the burden of faculty members teaching multiple large sections in the Sciences. The co-chairs noted that the Guide measures teaching load in credit hours rather than student enrollments. Adjustments to compensate for large sections would best be negotiated between the department chair and the dean.

Finally, the committee was asked about the procedure for electing an interim chair in the event that the departure of the chair to take another position is known well in advance. The procedures in article 10 of the Guide address emergency contingencies in which the departure of the chair is sudden and unexpected. In such cases, an acting chair is appointed by the Dean and if the chair's absence lasts longer than 30 days, an interim chair is elected by the department. The co-chairs and committee agreed that this procedure was not applicable to a planned departure, and in such a case it would be best to hold the election for the interim chair right away. The Senate chair concurred with this interpretation.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel Knight

Judith Lothian

Faculty Guide and Bylaws Committee co-chairs.