

Proposed Committee Bylaw Changes

UW Faculty Senate

Dec 1, 2025

Background

- Faculty Senate has 13 standing committees
 - Exec Committee
 - Committee on Committees
 - 11 Standing committees
- 11 standing committees require approximately 130 faculty, plus another 11 for Committee on Committees oversight => NEED 140 FACULTY
- Need approx. 70 senators in Faculty Senate,
=> total faculty participation required (assuming faculty are assigned to one committee or faculty senate only) > 200 faculty
- There are approx. 730 faculty on campus,
 - 130 are new this year => approx. existing 600 faculty before hires

=> Total faculty need to staff committees is over 1/3 of existing faculty

THIS IS AN UNWORKABLE NUMBER OF FACULTY TO REQUIRE FOR STANDING COMMITTEES!

Justification

- Good shared governance requires significant faculty interaction and effort.
 - => requires engagement and commitment among faculty committees
- Committees function as the eyes and ears of shared governance
 - Where research and greater consideration of faculty and institutional issues takes place
 - Delegated expertise that informs full Faculty Senate
- Better engagement requires effective committees that meet regularly and have clear charges.
 - Faculty commitment cannot be too resource intensive
- Update existing bylaws for changes to major admin units since last revision and admin unit name changes.

Proposal Goals

- Reduce faculty commitment to committees
 - Ensure smaller units are not overburdened with committee assignments (e.g. Law, Haub, Honors, SER, SoC, Libraries, AHC, UW Casper, etc.)
- Consider charges and function of committees
 - Ensure that charge is reasonable
 - Ensure committees function in an on-going way to maintain commitment and engagement
- Efficiency – if duplication exists – eliminate it.

Proposal Overview

- Recognize some committees serve additional and important functions at UW:
 - Graduate Council = serves Grad School
 - RTP Committee = Works with AA on reappointment, tenure and promotion
 - Research Committee = works with REDD to inform administration on research issues
- These committees and their charges largely unchanged
- All others reconsidered in accordance with functions defined in UniRegs (e.g. UniReg 2-301 which defines Faculty Senate functions)

Proposed Committee Eliminations (4)

- Budget Committee
 - Often unclear what purpose is – for over a decade the purpose of this committee has been ad-hoc
 - Requires significant learning curve and expertise by members when engaged.
 - ⇒Propose elimination and creation of a sub-committee of Academic Planning Committee (APC) with membership defined as needed.
 - ⇒Intention – to work more closely with existing budget committee chaired by VP Budget and Finance (Alex Kean)
- Library Committee
 - Infrequent meetings with limited role in policy
 - =>Propose complete elimination – allow Libraries to draw on faculty as needed

Proposed Committee Eliminations

- Faculty Recognition committee:
 - Meets infrequently – most important functions include Faculty Speaker Series Awardees identification, some members serving on broader UW award committees.
 - => Propose elimination – sub-committee of Exec Committee, APC and FASRRC.
- Committee on Committees:
 - Primary function is oversight of standing committee memberships and charges
 - Typically, most work performed by chairs with limited engagement by rest of committee
 - => Propose elimination and replacement with one or two individuals who perform duties chairs mostly completed previously.

Proposed Committee Eliminations?

- Consolidation of University Course Review and University Studies Committees?
 - Not sure what the overlap is here and what it should be optimally.

Remaining Committees

- Charges of remaining committees remain primarily as defined in previous bylaws, although some may see their purview expanded with committee eliminations.
 - ⇒ APC is seen as the primary policy-making committee
 - ⇒ Some eliminated committee functions now fall to this committee (e.g. Budget), which has the power to create sub-committees as needed to address pressing issues
 - ⇒ FASRRC also an important internal policy committee
 - ⇒ Exec Committee creates sub-committees of individuals tasked with roles of eliminated committees (Committee on Committee, Awards committee)
 - ⇒ Add individuals to Exec Committee as either new members or a sub-committee
 - ⇒ Roles of those tasked with these functions could be addressed specifically in an update to UniReg 2-301

Committee Membership

- Standardize standing committee membership
 - Reduce most standing committees from a base of 11 members to 6 drawn from the six major colleges (Ag, A&S, Business, Education, CEPS, CHS)
 - Voluntary participation - Other units (Honors College, College of Law, Haub School, School of Computing, and School of Energy Resources, Libraries, American Heritage Center, UW Casper and ASUW where appropriate) may appoint members to committees but not required.
 - Members serve staggered 3-year terms
 - Exceptions:
 - Grad Council, RTP
 - External (non- FS administrative liaison) members retained (titles updated where appropriate)

Intended Result

- Reduce Faculty commitment to committees
 - Elimination of four committees (3 standing committees + Committee on Committees) => approx. 40 fewer faculty needed
 - Reduction of membership in remaining standing committees from standard size of 11 to 6 with others as needed
 - => (8 committees with five fewer members) = approx. 40 faculty reduction.
 - Result: approximately halves committee faculty requirements
 - Approx. 140+ to approx. 70-80
 - Do have to staff sub-committees requiring some faculty.
 - Overall faculty resources needed:
 - Faculty Senate ~70 + Committees ~70 = 140

Other changes

- Requirement of reporting annually to Faculty Senate from each committee
 - Report at start of year and regular reports on work.
 - Annual report to faculty senate on activity during year and results.
 - Intended to increase engagement and accountability
- Organization
 - Must identify following year committee chair in April of each year
 - Must identify any vacancies in following year in April of each year so that college replacements can be identified by Exec Committee designee(s) fulfilling previous Committee on Committee functions.
 - Review of committee charges

Questions/Actions Remaining

- Review of USP/Course Review Committee composition and functions
 - Work with full FS, existing committees AA and any others to ensure functions remain adequately covered.
- Review by full Faculty Senate for input and recommendation (Spring 2026).