

UNIVERSITY SENATE  
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Introduced by: Educational Policy Council  
Date: May 3, 2004

AD HOC UNIVERSITY-WIDE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That an ad hoc governance committee of the University Senate be created to examine the interaction of the University Senate governance structure with the faculty governance structures of the individual schools and colleges.
2. That the Committee membership be nominated by the existing subcommittee on governance and elections of the Senate Executive Committee, in consultation with EPC, and be ratified by the Senate.
3. That the Committee be comprised of at least six teaching faculty distributed from the various schools and colleges, one professional faculty member and one graduate student.
4. That the Committee be charged with investigating alternative governance models and potential consequences of delegating increased autonomy in decisions about graduate curriculum, graduate academic standing, promotion and continuing appointment, and research programs to the schools and colleges while maintaining a university-wide Faculty governance structure for overarching policy, assessment, and appeal issues in these areas.
5. That the Committee make specific recommendations to the Senate for changes in the University Senate Charter and Faculty Bylaws, if any, by October 1, 2004, and that the committee be disbanded in the fall of 2004, unless extended by the Senate.
6. That these recommendations enumerate which of the Faculty responsibilities of Bylaws Article I, Section 2.2, and of the charges of the Senate Councils specified in the Bylaws and charter shall be devolved to the individual schools and colleges, with the remaining retained to the Faculty and to the Senate.
7. That the Committee provide suggestions for ways in which individual school and college bylaws could be modified by their faculty to facilitate the interaction with University Faculty governance or to be consistent with a revised University-wide structure.
8. That the Committee throughout the process communicate and collaborate with the chairs or their representatives from the Governance Council, CPCA and GAC, and representatives of the deans and faculty bodies of the individual schools and colleges.

RATIONALE:

In response to the resolution of the Board of Trustees approving the creation of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, and to the requests of the faculty of the School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering for more efficient and flexible organization, Interim President Ryan has recommended that increased autonomy be given to schools and colleges in the areas of graduate curriculum, academic standing and appeals, tenure and promotion, and research. This is recognized as an opportunity to investigate and streamline the interaction between existing school and college governance bodies and university Faculty governance and to explicitly address the linkage between school and college and university Faculty Bylaws, which in many cases is lacking.