

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

October 31, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Council  
**FROM:** Tyler Silvestri  
*Secretary for Academic Governance*  
**SUBJECT:** *Bylaws Amendment re: Faculty Senate Election Process*

Per section 4.3.4. of the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*, the University Committee on Academic Governance has the authority “to interpret these *Bylaws* subject to review by University Council.” UCAG received a request for an interpretation from a member of the faculty. Below is the question presented and an amendment to the *Bylaws* that UCAG has proposed in response.

### Question Presented

Taken together, sections 2.2.5.1, 3.2.1.1, 3.3.1.1, 3.3.1.2.1, and 3.3.1.2.3 make it very hard to determine how a college is to choose its representatives to Faculty Senate and University Council. Could UCAG clarify the processes that colleges are to use when choosing their Faculty Senate and University Council representatives?

### Relevant Bylaws

2.2.5.1. Each College Advisory Committee shall ensure that at least two of its members are members of the Faculty Senate, selecting—if necessary—from among the college representatives to the University Council one person to serve as an ex-officio member, without vote, of the College Advisory Committee. See 3.3.1.2.1.

3.2.1.1. The University Council shall be composed of the members of Faculty Senate, selected pursuant to 3.3.1 [effectively 3.3.1.1. for these purposes] . . .

3.3.1.1. The first contingent of voting members of the Faculty Senate will be composed of faculty representatives from each college at the university. The college advisory committee/council in each college will conduct the election of that college’s representatives. The Secretary for Academic Governance will oversee the elections.

3.3.1.2.1. Each college shall have at least two representatives, one of whom will be the chairperson of the College Advisory Committee. Each college shall have one additional representative for every additional fifty voting faculty in excess of one hundred not to exceed five total representatives. Each college with three or more representatives shall have at least one non-tenured faculty member among its representatives.



## Office of Academic Governance

Owen Graduate Hall,  
Michigan State University  
735 E Shaw Ln, Room W32  
East Lansing, MI 48825

517-355-2337  
acadgov@msu.edu  
acadgov.msu.edu

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3.3.1.2.3. Each college's faculty representatives shall be elected at large during the spring semester by ballot supervised by the College Advisory Committee. A department or school may not have more than one representative unless the college's departments are so few that such a limitation would reduce the college's representatives to the Faculty Senate as determined by 3.3.1.2.1. Nomination procedures shall be stated in college bylaws.

## **UCAG's Proposed *Bylaws* Amendment**

There are complex historical reasons that the *Bylaws* have ended up in this admittedly confusing state, and I am happy to review those with the University Council. After reviewing the inquiry, the University Committee on Academic Governance proposed the following the amendment at its October 20, 2022 meeting:

2.2.5.1. Each College Advisory Committee shall ensure that at least two of its members (including its chairperson) are members of the Faculty Senate, selecting—if necessary—one person from among the college representatives to the ~~University Council~~Faculty Senate ~~one person to~~ serve as an ex-officio member, without vote, of the College Advisory Committee. See 3.3.1.2.1.



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The proposed amendment is now referred to University Council for further action pursuant to section 8.3.1.