**Present:** R. Bell, D. Ewoldsen, B. Fox, C. Gomez, R. Hallgren, T . Jeitschko, L. Komis, M. Kuykendall, J. Ling, J. Lipton, R. Lucas, B. Olivier, N. Overton, D. Rehberger,
T. Silvestri, D. Stroupe, J. Swada, D. Troutman, W. Wong, T. Woodruff,

**Absent:** V. Delgado, T. Grotjohn, D. Rivera, G. Sly, A. Tickner, S. Vickery

A regular meeting of the University Committee on Academic Governance was held on October 20, 2022 at 3:15 p.m. via Zoom with Chairperson Jack Lipton presiding. The agenda was approved as presented. The draft minutes of the September 29, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

Chairperson Lipton, Secretary for Academic Governance Tyler Silvestri, Senior Associate Provost Thomas Jeitschko, and Provost Teresa K. Woodruff gave remarks.

Bylaw **Interpretation re: Staff Voting Rights [2223-12]**

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.”

The committee received a request for interpretation regarding section 1.1.2.2., which reads, “The voting faculty in the election of department, school, or college councils and committees and in elections pertaining to department, school, or college policies and decisions shall include all regular faculty engaged in the academic activities of that unit and may, if so provided by unit bylaws, also include health professions faculty, FRIB/NSCL faculty, fixed-term faculty, honorary faculty, specialists, lecturers, research associates, assistant instructors, or adjunct faculty.” The question presented was whether section 1.1.2.2. means that units cannot give support staff the voting rights in unit bylaws.

Following debate, the committee agreed by consent that its interpretation is that the list in section 1.1.2.2. is exclusive, meaning that units could not grant support staff voting rights. The committee also noted that simply amending section 1.1.2.2. to include support staff would be an unworkable solution, as the section is listed under the sub-section “The Faculty” and the sub-sub-section “Composition of the Faculty.” Furthermore, the committee agreed that the nature of a document called the *Bylaws for Academic Governance* is such that it governs *academic* matters and therefore excludes non-academic participants. Members of the committee stressed that the *Bylaws* could theoretically be amended to allow for staff participation, but to do so would involve large, structural amendments that require extensive consideration.

Bylaw **Interpretation re: Staff Membership on CACs [2223-13]**

The committee received a request for interpretation of section 2.2.5., which reads, “The bylaws of each college shall provide for a College Advisory Committee of faculty and students or separate college advisory committees to serve as means of participation by faculty and students in the policy-making of the college. The composition of each College Advisory Committee shall be representative of that college’s diverse academic interests.” The question presented was whether that section excludes colleges from including voting support staff members on their CACs.

Following debate, the committee agreed by consent that the language “a College Advisory Committee composed of faculty and students” was exclusive and did not mean that the inclusion of faculty and students was simply a minimum, meaning colleges cannot add support staff as members (voting or otherwise) to their CACs. However, the committee noted that support staff could be invited as standing guests with speaking rights without violating the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*.

Bylaw **Interpretation re: Faculty Senate Election Process [2223-14]**

The committee received a request for interpretation of sections 2.2.5.1, 3.2.1.1, 3.3.1.1, 3.3.1.2.1, and 3.3.1.2.3, which read:

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.

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.

The requester stated that they found the process for electing faculty senators confusing based on the text of the above bylaws and asked UCAG to clarify.

Following debate, the committee agreed by consent that the process was ambiguous and approved the following amendment to section 2.2.5.1.:

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 Faculty Senate to serve as an ex-officio member, without vote, of the College Advisory Committee. See 3.3.1.2.1.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

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Tyler Silvestri
Secretary for Academic Governance
 **Approved:** November 3, 2022