

Athletic Council Bylaw Revisions

During the summer of 2024, a subcommittee was appointed to look into issues surrounding the bylaws for the Athletic Council (Jack Lipton, Rebecca Malouin, Dean Rehberger).

The subcommittee was charged with exploring a number of issues with the AC. Of those charges, the subcommittee was to review the current bylaws and to clarify the ability for the president to appoint 2 MSU Faculty Athletic Representatives (FARs). In 2018, the then MSU president, Engler, appointed 2 FARs, although it was not clear in the bylaws if this was possible. The focus was also to clarify that while it is not usual for ex-officio members without vote to serve as chair, the subcommittee wanted to clarify that the FARs would not serve as chairs.

Examples bylaws of other institutions (several with 2 FARs):

- University of Minnesota (<https://usenate.umn.edu/committees/intercollegiate-athletics-committee>)
- Clemson Membership (<https://www.clemson.edu/administration/councils/athletic-council/members.html>)
- UNC Membership (<https://facultygov.unc.edu/faculty-code/article-4/#4-7>)
- Iowa Membership (<https://hawkeyesports.com/committee-on-athletics/>)
- UW Board (https://uwbadgers.com/sports/2015/8/21/GEN_2014010111.aspx)
- University of Indiana (<https://vpfaa.indiana.edu/policies/bl-aca-d30-faculty-athletics-committee/index.html#scope>)

After extensive review of the bylaws (and similar bylaws for AC committees in the Big Ten and other R1s), the subcommittee recommends the following revisions to bylaws for UCAG to review.

Suggested Revisions (in red font)

3.2.1.1. The University Council shall be composed of the members of Faculty Senate, selected pursuant to 3.3.1, the Appointed Council, all faculty serving as chairpersons of College Advisory Committees, the chairperson of the Athletic Council, members of the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) selected pursuant to 3.2.3.1, members of the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) selected pursuant to 3.2.3.2, chairpersons of University-level Standing Committees, the Steering Committee, the President, the Provost, and designated ex-officio members in 3.2.1.2.

3.2.5. University-level Standing Committees Reporting to University Council

3.2.5.1. University-level Standing Committees that deal predominantly with issues other than the curriculum and faculty life (e.g., tenure and promotion, salary, benefits) report to University Council. Such committees include the University Committee on Student Life and Engagement, the University Committee on Undergraduate Education, the University Committee on Graduate Studies, the University Committee on the Libraries, and the University Committee on Academic Governance.

3.2.5.2. The Athletic Council reports to the University Council. The form and frequency of its reporting will be determined by the Steering Committee, but in no case will the frequency of reporting be less than once each academic year. The Athletic Council, through its chairperson, will also respond within a reasonable time to questions asked by the University Council.

3.3.1.5. The President, the Provost, the Executive Vice President for Health Sciences, one elected member from ASMSU, one elected member from COGS, and the chairperson of the Athletic Council will serve as ex-officio members of the Faculty Senate, with voice, but no vote.

4.4.1.2. Each year the UCUE shall appoint one of its faculty members to serve as an ex-officio member on the Athletic Council.

5.2. Athletic Council

5.2.1. There shall be an Athletic Council with composition and procedures subject to approval by the University Council. The Athletic Council shall function as the faculty voice in the intercollegiate athletic program.

5.2.2. Composition of the Athletic Council

5.2.2.1. The voting members of the Athletic Council shall be eight members of the faculty, eligible for election under 1.1.1, three alumni, and three students.

5.2.2.2. Ex-officio members without vote shall include: the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Faculty Athletic Representative(s), the Executive Director of the Alumni Association, and the Vice President for Financial Planning and Analysis. **Members without vote cannot serve as chair of the Athletic Council.**

5.2.3. Appointment of Members

5.2.3.1. Faculty members of the Athletic Council shall be **elected** ~~selected by the President~~ from a slate of nominees (two for each vacancy) prepared by the faculty of the University Committee on Academic Governance and approved by the Faculty Senate.

5.2.3.1.1. The University Committee on Undergraduate Education shall appoint one of its faculty members to serve as an ex-officio member of the Athletic Council.

5.2.3.2. Alumni representatives shall be chosen from members of the Michigan State University Alumni Association, which shall prepare a slate of two nominees for each vacancy, from which the President shall appoint one. One of the alumni representatives shall be a former student varsity athlete. Alumni members shall not be employees of the university.

5.2.3.3. The President shall select student members of the Athletic Council.

5.2.3.3.1. One undergraduate student shall be ~~appointed~~ **elected** by ASMSU from a slate of three nominees ~~submitted~~ **prepared** by ASMSU. One graduate student shall be ~~appointed~~ **elected by COGS** from a slate of three nominees ~~submitted~~ **prepared** by COGS. One member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council shall be ~~selected~~ **elected by Student-Athlete Advisory Council** from a slate of three nominees prepared by the Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

5.2.3.4. **The Faculty Athletic Representative(s) to the athletic agencies or conferences to which the University chooses to belong shall be a member of the regular faculty appointed by the President. The appointment shall be made with the advice of the voting members of the Athletic Council. The President can appoint a second FAR with the advice and vote by the voting members of the Athletic Council.**

5.2.4. Terms of Appointment

5.2.4.1. The terms of appointment of faculty and alumni representatives on the Athletic Council shall be two years and shall begin on August 16. Terms of members shall be staggered so that not less than one-third of the membership will return the following year.

5.2.4.2. The term of appointment for student representatives shall be one year and shall begin on the first day of summer semester.

5.2.4.3. Vacancies for a period of one or more academic terms that occur during the term of appointment of any voting member shall be filled for the remainder of the unfinished term in the same manner as the regular selection of the member unable to serve. Voting members of the Athletic Council can serve no more than two consecutive terms. An appointment of more than eight months to fill an unfinished term shall be equivalent to a full term in considering eligibility for reappointment.

5.2.4.4. **The Faculty Athletic Representative(s) shall serve a 3-year term at the discretion of the President. The President shall review the Faculty Athletic Representative at least once every 3 years with the advice of the voting members of the Athletic Council. FAR(s) shall not serve more than 2 consecutive terms. If more than one FAR is appointed, every effort should be made to stagger terms.**

5.2.5. Responsibilities of the Athletic Council

5.2.5.1. The Athletic Council serves as the deliberative body for the discussion of academic policy related to student athletes and intercollegiate athletics.

5.2.5.2. The Athletic Council advises the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics on matters of policy, procedures, and organization related to intercollegiate athletics.

5.2.5.2.1. Regarding the regular season and post-season tickets and trips, voting members of the Athletic Council shall strive to minimize the award of special privileges to themselves that are uncharacteristic of those generally available to faculty. Nonetheless, it is expected that the Athletic Council will fulfill responsibilities related to institutional representation as appropriate throughout the year.

5.2.5.2.2. Complimentary tickets given to Athletic Council members are considered non-transferable.

5.2.6. The Athletic Council reports to the University Council. Form and frequency of reporting will be determined by the Steering Committee, but in no case will the frequency of reporting be less than once each academic year. The Athletic Council will also respond to questions asked by the University Council through its seated representative in the University Council, the chairperson of the Athletic Council.

5.2.6.1. A report of policies regarding regular season and post-season trips, as well as a record of the disbursement of complimentary tickets and trips, shall be included in the annual report of Athletic Council to University Council.

5.2.6.2. The FAR(s) report to the President and the Athletic Council. Form and frequency will be determined by the President and the Athletic Council. The FAR(s) in consultation with the Athletic Council will produce a semi-annual report to the Senate on the academic performance and well-being of student Athletes. FAR(s) will also publish as part of their report a complete list of their duties. In the case of more than one FAR, the published report of duties will include which duties were assigned to each FAR.

5.2.6.3. The Athletic Council and the FAR(s) are responsible for ensuring the online publication of all of their reports, agendas, and minutes.

For a list of duties of the FAR see

PSU

<https://pennstateoffice365.sharepoint.com/sites/SenateCommunications/Website%20Content/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FSenateCommunications%2FWebsite%20Content%2FSena>

[te%20Resources%20and%20Memos%2FOther%20Resources%2FNCAA%20Faculty%20Athletics%20Representative%20Position%20Description%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FSenateCommunications%2FWebsite%20Content%2FSenate%20Resources%20and%20Memos%2FOther%20Resources&p=true&ga=1\)](#)

UNC <https://facultygov.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/261/2024/03/2023-FAR-Annual-Report-1.pdf>

WSU (<https://president.wsu.edu/far/position-description/>)

Clayton (<https://www.clayton.edu/about/docs/academic-affairs/far-duties.pdf>)

Wyoming (https://www.uwyo.edu/president/_files/docs/duties-of-the-uw-faculty-athletics-representative.pdf)