

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

November 16, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: The University Council
FROM: The University Committee on 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 interpretation and approved a bylaw amendment to address the ambiguities the requester identified. The matter is now referred to University Council for action.

Question Presented to UCAG

“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.



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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 Bylaw Amendment

At its October 20 meeting, UCAG approved the following amendment to the *Bylaws for Academic Governance* in order to resolve the tension between the various sections of the *Bylaws*:

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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