

23 January 2016

to: The Steering Committee  
from: Debra Nails on behalf of the *ad hoc* committee established 12 January  
re: restructure of UCAG

The Steering Committee's *ad hoc* committee of Lorenzo Santavicca, John Gaboury, and I met to discuss the difficulties UCAG has been experiencing over the last decade. The plan on which we agreed was presented in outline to the UCAG 21 January 2016, but the following amendment to the Bylaws would, we hope, originate from The Steering Committee that established the *ad hoc* committee. The proposal (tentative until ASMSU votes):

4.3.1. The University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG) shall **include a faculty member from each college, and a faculty member from the non-college faculty. Eligibility to serve on UCAG is limited to faculty members who have previously served on a University-level Standing Committee or the Faculty Senate.** ~~have seven faculty members selected from the elected faculty currently serving on the University Council or having served within the past three years. UCAG shall have five~~ **Three** undergraduate student members of ASMSU, ~~and~~ two graduate student members ~~from of~~ **COGS, the**. ~~The~~ Provost or designee, and the Secretary for Academic Governance shall be ex-officio members of UCAG.

*Transition:* Although the Board of Trustees will not have had time to act on this amendment, nothing proposed is otherwise in conflict with the Bylaws; so UCAG should be added to the spring 2016 election cycle. Current members are eligible to continue their terms (aiding the goals of staggered terms and institutional memory), observing articles 4.2.1.3 and 4.2.1.5 (maximum of three two-year terms).

*Background rationale:* Originally, faculty and student representation was equal (7 + 7) because both faculty and student governance issues were codified in the Bylaws for Academic Governance.

(i) Before the reorganization of ASMSU and COGS, students needed to amend the Bylaws to address their own issues (student election rules, parliamentary procedures, etc.); that is all gone now, covered by the independent bylaws of ASMSU and COGS. What's left is liaison and communication. The Office of the Secretary for Academic Governance then had some authority over the student organizations that has also been written out of the Bylaws.

(ii) Much of the business of the UCAG—generation of faculty candidate slates and review of college bylaws for consistency with the Bylaws—directly involves faculty, and review has not been carried out properly since 2005; it's not anyone's fault, but a sign that the UCAG is dysfunctional.

(iii) Most cases of amending of the Bylaws affect faculty directly and primarily; so, apart from the real need to be informed by the student voice in all aspects of governance, it is difficult to justify so many student hours spent on issues of secondary interest (at best) to them.