Osteopathic Medicine Bylaws Review

Our first concern with these bylaws was in the area of definitions, particularly of faculty groups. The COM Bylaws refer to faculty groups that are not the standard groups as defined in University Bylaws. This was probably necessary in the past, but now the University seems to have adequate definitions to cover most of the needed groupings and we would encourage the COM to consider moving to these more generally understood terms. In particular we would encourage them to define "Fixed Term Faculty" a group that will soon have a role in university governance as a result of Faculty Voice Report recommendations.

Other noted problems: 1.3 refers to "clinical faculty" and "term limited faculty" -- groups that are not defined. 1.3.3 refers to "nonvoting members of departments of the COM." We were not sure who this group would be. In 6.9.1 we encountered the phrase "non HP fixed term faculty" a group not previously encountered and not defined. Similarly, we thought the opening phrase of section 1.3, "All faculty," might actually be clearer if it delineated the groups included, as defined in the section 1.1 above.

Beyond the definitions issue there were several other points. Some of them rising only to the level of typo, others more serious. Rather than trying to rank order them, I present them in order as they arose in the bylaws document.

1.2 College Advisory College should probably read College Advisory Council

2.3.2 Format of the extant sentence makes meetings of the Assembly appear entirely optional, when in fact we suspect that only the summer semester meeting was meant to be optional.

2.3.4 This sentence is unclear. Final words, after the word "meeting," seem unnecessary.

2.3.7 It is very irregular and we believe ill-advised to have no quantitative threshold to define a quorum for a body with responsibility for the approval of Bylaws.

4.2.1 Usual practice at MSU would call for a listing of departments by name in this section.

5.1 Use of the word "promptly" to define a timeframe for calling a new election is imprecise, perhaps an outer limit of acceptable practice should be included.

5.2.3 While we understand that the ballot would normally be filled by the nominating committee, we were concerned that, as described here, this is the only way a person could get on the ballot.

5.3 Two issues: 1) Does this committee have, should it have, a diversity representative? 2) In discussing the appointment of a secretary, the word "committee" is used, where we expected "Council."

5.4 Frequency of meetings is again unclear, either calling for one meeting per year to take place during either fall or spring semester, or more likely, two meetings, one each during fall and spring semesters.

5.4 and 6.1.7 Differences in quorum levels for the two groups. A simple majority for standing committees, but only a third of members for the CAC was a surprise. Wanted to call it to everyone’s attention.

6.1.11 The term "regularly" is undefined and therefore rather meaningless in this sentence.
6.2.1 Appears to be a minor typo in the sentence starting "Four student members..." should be "at least one each from the first..."

6.4 The Admissions Committee is a wholly appointed body. This is a surprise, would have expected this to be an elected group. Wanted to call the matter to everyone's attention.

Let me know if I've made mistakes in reporting our conversation.

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