

**ByLaws Committee  
March Report**

Kevin Seipp (co-chair), Laurie Walsh (co-chair), Justine Stount, and John Rice

Committee reviewed a possible addition to the ByLaws that details process for mandate policies (Item 1). The committee unanimously approved moving the proposed addition to Senate Mar 9, 2022 via email.

**Item 1: CONSIDERATION**

The first item to be considered will be forwarded as an ACTION item at the April FS meeting. The item would be added to the ByLaws Section 2.3 Organization.

Justification: The addition provides a process for policies/items originating with Administration that have been implemented without FS input.

The bolded and italicized text under number 4 is the text for the addition.

**Section 2.3 Organization**

**B. Faculty Senate**

1. The senate is formed in accordance with NSHE and GBC Bylaws and is a fundamental in embracing and adhering to the philosophies of academic freedom, faculty welfare, and share governance as detailed above. The senate also seeks to fulfill the mission of GBC and its commitment to higher education. The senate is a recommending body only.
2. A primary function of the senate rests in its involvement with the formation, revision, and implementation of policies/procedures, plans, guidelines and other documents and practices that relate to faculty and the function of GBC. These tasks often are the responsibility of committees. The senate chair may coordinate with LC and faculty to identify potential goals and activities for committees. The senate chair will then present potential goals for each committee at senate. Through the process of debate and consultation, the senate, through simple vote, will decide on the goals of committees. The senate has the authority to reject potential tasks if that body deems the workload as too significant or if other parties are better suited to performing the task.
3. Best practices related to academic freedom, faculty welfare, and shared governance are founded in discussion, consideration, and debate between all parties, but in this case primarily among and between faculty and senior administration. Policies/procedures, plans, guidelines, and other documents that originate in, and are recommended by, senate are vetted by LC and other interested parties at the discretion of the president. LC may adopt, request changes, or not adopt an item originating in senate. The senate has the authority to reject LC requests for changes. An item can thus be adopted by LC that is not recommended by senate.
4. Items originating outside the senate that affect faculty in terms of academic freedom, faculty welfare, and other matters should be vetted through the senate. The senate may request consultation and/or revision of documents and/or practices that impact faculty as detailed in NSHE code and these bylaws. The president retains the right to reject such a request.

*Upon the rare occasion when a policy is mandated and implemented by administration without senate consideration, administration will present those policies, along with justification for acting without Senate recommendation to the Faculty Senate Chair.*

*The Chair will provide the senate with the mandated policy information. The senate will consider the policy as an information item. The chair will ask for a "Sense of the Senate" as a means of recording senate opinion into the record.*

## **Item 2: INFORMATION ONLY**

On Nov 19 FS unanimously approved changes to Bylaws in regard to the process for forming Subcommittees:

In order for this to be consistent with the approved process 7.1 D:

*Subcommittees* may be formed by the standing committee chair with the approval of the committee. Subcommittees are temporary bodies tasked with a specific purpose and time-period. The standing committee chair will inform the senate of the proposed subcommittee, its task, time-period, and membership.

This addition slightly changes to duties of the FS chair to exclude subcommittee chairs.

### Section 5.2.5 Duties of Officers

Under chair duties

5a original statement: Assign Senate Committee Chairs in consultation with other faculty and current and/or former Senate Officers in order to identify appropriate leadership.

CHANGE 5a to state: Assign Senate **Standing and Ad hoc** Committee Chairs in consultation with other faculty and current and/or former Senate Officers in order to identify appropriate leadership.