

ACTION ITEM: FACULTY SENATE APRIL 15, 2022

Purpose: the purpose of this addition to Bylaws is to simply provide a sensible pathway for faculty senate to be informed and acknowledge administrative policy mandates. The addition clarifies Senate and committee roles and provides a mechanism (“sense of the senate”) to document faculty views on a given mandated policy. As well, this addition relieves committees from awkward and confusing debates/recommendations for policies that have already been implemented.

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 in writing, 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.