

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: David Shipley, Chair Statutes & Bylaws Committee

DATE: February 20, 2018

RE: Proposed Bylaw Changes for the Educational Affairs Committee and for membership on University Council and Standing Committees

The Statutes & Bylaws Committee met on Tuesday, January 9 to consider proposals to amend the Bylaw on Standing Committees: Membership, Functions, and Duties, specifically, Part I, section VII B. regarding the duties of the Educational Affairs Committee, and the Bylaw on General Procedures, specifically Part V, section I A. pertaining to eligibility for membership on University Council and the Standing Committees. Please put these proposed changes on the agenda for the March 7 meeting of the Executive Committee.

In addition, we are drafting revisions to another Bylaw regarding the election of Non-Tenure Track (NTT) faculty to the Faculty Affairs Committee that will be presented at a later meeting of the Executive Committee.

### **Proposal 1**

The proposed changes to the duties of the Educational Affairs committee reflect recent changes made by the USG Board of Regents authorizing the Presidents of system's colleges and universities to set the academic calendar. President Morehead has delegated this authority to the Vice President for Instruction. The current Bylaw states that the duties of the Educational Affairs Committee are as follows:

1. To consider and recommend to the Council educational policies dealing with registration procedures, class times and periods, the academic calendar, academic advising, and the like.
2. To hear academic student petitions, including grade appeals.
3. To hear from the Division of Academic Enhancement Student Issues Committee.

Here is the proposed revision:

1. To consider and recommend to the Council educational policies dealing with registration procedures, class times and periods, academic advising, and the like.
2. To consider and recommend to the Vice President for Instruction, by the conclusion of the Fall semester, an academic calendar formed in part with the input of the University Council.
3. To hear academic student petitions, including grade appeals.
4. To hear from the Division of Academic Enhancement Student Issues Committee.

The proposed revision deletes the reference to the academic calendar in section 1, and it creates a new section 2 that authorizes the committee to recommend an academic calendar to the Vice President for Instruction after getting input from Council. It is likely that soliciting this input will be handled as an informational item. The proposal renumbers the current sections 2 and 3 as sections 3 and 4. The proposal has been reviewed by the Vice President for Instruction.

## Proposal 2

At the November 8, 2017 meeting of the Executive Committee there was considerable discussion of proposed changes to the membership requirements for service on several Standing Committees that would open them to NTT faculty. One of the concerns was whether the proposed changes would enable persons with only part-time or temporary relationships with UGA to serve on Council and the Standing Committees. The Statutes & Bylaws Committee was asked to consider whether to limit service on Council and the committees to full-time faculty. Here is the current language in Section V of the Bylaws pertaining to eligibility:

### Eligibility of Faculty for Election to the University Council and Standing Committees

- A. Any member of the faculty is eligible for election to the University Council. Where specified, membership on certain committees is limited to faculty with academic rank.

The committee discussed whether the addition of a 'full-time' limitation on eligibility was necessary in view of the definitions of the Corps of Instruction and Faculty Ranks in the Academic Affairs Policy Manual and the Board of Regents Policy Manual. In addition, a representative of the Registrar's Office was not aware of instances when part-time or temporary faculty have been elected to serve on Council and the Standing Committees.

Nevertheless, the sense of the Statutes & Bylaws Committee was to recommend that section A. should be amended to read as follows:

Any member of the full-time faculty is eligible for election to the University Council. Where specified, membership on certain committees is limited to faculty with academic rank.

The rationale for this change is the belief that full-time faculty are more likely to be fully invested in UGA and its long term health and welfare than part-time or temporary faculty, and thus more willing to commit time and energy to service on Council and the Standing Committees.