

University of Georgia University Council
Committee on Statutes, Bylaws, and Committees

The Committee on Statutes, Bylaws, and Committees has unanimously approved the attached proposed amendments to the University Council Bylaws and the Statutes of the University of Georgia. These amendments address the following issues:

- The Committee received a request (referred by the Executive Committee) from the UGA Postdoctoral Association (PDA) for representation on the Council. Postdoctoral researchers used to hold faculty titles; but the 2009 System-wide reclassification of personnel gave them non-faculty status. Although postdocs form a small cohort of the University community, they are not currently directly represented by any governance body. Amendments are therefore proposed to provide for a single seat on the Council and on the two standing committees that intersect most closely with their interests.
- The Statutes of the University of Georgia suggest that the Council's Executive Committee could act, in matters of particular urgency, on behalf of the full Council. However, the Bylaws provide no mechanism for such action. An amendment is proposed to provide such a mechanism, including review of all such actions by the full Council.
- The Chair of the Executive Committee has, by tradition, fulfilled a number of representational and ceremonial roles within and beyond the University. The Chair has also traditionally been responsible for the formation and charge of ad hoc committees. An amendment is proposed to formalize these traditional roles in the Bylaws. This amendment also formalizes the Council's link to the University System of Georgia Faculty Council, which has now been officially recognized by the Board of Regents.
- In the annual review of the Statutes and Bylaws conducted by the Committee and by the Secretary of the Council, some discrepancies with current practice were discovered. These pertain to the selection of student representatives to the Council and its Executive Committee and the procedures for conducting elections to the Council's standing committees. Amendments are proposed to bring the Statutes and Bylaws into alignment with current practice.
- The annual review also discovered a discrepancy between the Bylaws and the Statutes, pertaining to the categories of faculty who can be elected to the Council. Amendments to the Statutes are proposed to bring them into alignment with the Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian P. Childs
Chair, Committee on Statutes, Bylaws, and Committees

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws

Amendment #1

Part I, Standing Committees: Membership, Functions, and Duties;
Section I. University Council Executive Committee;

A. Membership

Students: ~~One undergraduate student and one graduate/professional student shall be elected as Committee members from and by the student members of the University Council. The president of the Student Government Association and the president of the Graduate Student Association shall serve as voting members. These students shall serve a one-year term as voting members.~~

Executive Committee Chair: The Chair of the Executive Committee shall be the immediate past Chair-Elect of the Executive Committee. Each year the Executive Committee shall choose a new Chair-Elect from among the elected faculty members of the Committee who are entering the second year of their term of service on the Committee. The Chair shall serve as Grand Marshal of the University, shall represent the faculty of the University on the University System of Georgia Faculty Council and the Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium Faculty Senate Leaders, and shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association and an ex-officio voting trustee of the Arch Foundation. With the advice of the members of the Executive Committee, the Chair shall constitute and charge any ad hoc committees approved by the Council.

Rationale: Reflects current practice for student members. Spells out duties that have been taken by the Executive Committee Chair for years. Formalizes the Council's relationship to the newly recognized USG Faculty Council.

Amendment #2

Part I. Standing Committees: Membership, Functions, and Duties
Section I. University Council Executive Committee

B. Duties

7. To act, in matters of particular urgency, on behalf of the full Council, as authorized under Article V, Section 2 (f) of the Statutes of the University of Georgia. Actions taken in this manner shall be reported to the Council at its next meeting and confirmed or revoked by a majority vote.

~~7.8.~~ To oversee the activities of the Council and to insure that it implement and observe faithfully the provisions of these bylaws.

Rationale: The University Statutes (Article V, Section 2.f) explicitly give Council the ability to invest the Executive Committee with this authority. But the bylaws do not do so, nor is there a mechanism for its exercise.

Amendment #3

Part I. Standing Committees: Membership, Functions, and Duties

Section IV. Committee on Statutes, Bylaws, and Committees

B. Duties:

3. ~~To prepare, in the spring of each year, a slate of candidates for the various standing committees of the University Council whose members are elected by the Council. The Committee should consider the maintenance of an appropriate balance among committee nominees to insure adequate and fair representation. The slate of candidates will be submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the last regularly scheduled Council meeting of the academic year. To provide oversight to the Secretary of the Council in providing for elections to standing committees.~~

Rationale: Reflects actual practice.

Amendment #4

Part I. Standing Committees: Membership, Functions, and Duties

Section XIII. Human Resources Committee

A. Membership

After Staff: add:

Postdoctoral Appointee: One postdoctoral appointee, elected by the Postdoctoral Association, shall serve a one-year term as a voting member.

Section XV. University Libraries Committee

A. Membership

After Staff: add:

Postdoctoral Appointee: One postdoctoral appointee, elected by the Postdoctoral Association, shall serve a one-year term as a voting member.

Rationale: Adds a member of the PDA to the Human Resources and University Libraries Committees.

Amendment #5

Part V, General Procedures (*relates to the University Council*)

Section III, Election and Appointment Procedures

B. Ex officio members of the Council shall consist of the President of the University, who shall be the chair and presiding officer of the Council; ~~the Senior Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents;~~ no more than seven Senior Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents; the Deans of the schools and colleges; the Associate Provost and University Librarian; the Registrar, who shall be the Secretary of the Council; the President and Vice President of the Student Government Association; the President of the Graduate Student Association; the President of the UGA Staff Council; the President of the UGA Postdoctoral Association; and the President of the UGA Alumni Association. ~~Ex-officio members of the Council shall not exceed 31.~~ Elected faculty, staff and students shall constitute the remainder of the Council.

Rationale: Eliminates cumbersome total limit of ex-officio members. Adds president of GSA (past practice not reflected in bylaws) and PDA (new proposal).

Amendment #6

Part V, General Procedures (relates to the University Council)
Section III, Election and Appointment Procedures

- F. Students shall be elected to the University Council, apportioned as follows: one from each of the schools and colleges, except for Arts and Sciences (which shall have six) and the Graduate School (which shall have ~~three~~ two). Students elected by the schools/colleges may be graduate or undergraduate status with the exception of Graduate School representatives who must be graduate status. Students of sophomore status or above, in good academic standing, may stand for election to the Council for a one-year term and may stand for election to one additional term only. Each spring the Vice President for Student Affairs shall poll the schools and colleges to determine whether they wish to conduct the election of student Council members. Schools or colleges which wish to conduct their own elections shall file an election plan with the Student Affairs Committee of the Council. Other schools or colleges will have the Vice President for Student Affairs conduct elections for them, according to a plan approved by the Committee on Student Affairs and the Executive Committee of the Council. The Vice President for Student Affairs may, with the approval of the Executive Committee and the Committee on Student Affairs, transfer in whole or in part the responsibility for conducting elections of student Council members to the Student Government Association. Elections will be conducted in the spring of each year prior to the August in which student terms on the Council begin.

Rationale: President of GSA is now ex-officio, so only two elected members from the Graduate School are needed.

Amendment #7

Part V, General Procedures (relates to the University Council)
Section III, Election and Appointment Procedures

- H. The Secretary of the University Council shall monitor the membership of the standing committees for vacancies which occur as the terms of current committee members expire. ~~Six weeks before a spring semester meeting, the Committee on Statutes, Bylaws and Committees shall solicit written nominations for these vacancies, prepare written ballots with at least two nominees for each vacancy, and provide for election by written ballot. Each spring semester, with the oversight of the Committee on Statutes, Bylaws and Committees, the Secretary shall solicit nominations for these vacancies, prepare ballots, and provide for an election.~~ There shall be a two-week period between the sending of the ballots and the deadline for receiving them. Results will be announced by the end of April. No committee member shall be allowed to represent more than one school or college.

Rationale: Eliminates references to written materials, permitting electronic work and balloting. Revises process to reflect actual practice.

Proposed Amendment to the Statutes

Amendment A

Article V: The University Council

Section 3: Ex Officio and Appointed Members

Ex-officio members of the University Council shall be as follows:

- The President of the University (who shall be the chair and presiding officer of the Council),
- ~~The Senior Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents,~~ No more than seven of the Senior Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents, as designated in Article III,
- The Deans of the Schools and Colleges,
- The Associate Provost and University Librarian,
- The Registrar (who shall be the Secretary of the Council)
- The President and Vice President of the Student Government Association,
- The President of the Graduate Student Association,
- The President of the UGA Staff Council, ~~and~~
- The President of the UGA Postdoctoral Association, and
- The President of the UGA Alumni Association

The Executive Committee may appoint a maximum of six additional members to staggered three-year terms to help rectify imbalances regarding race, ethnicity or gender.

Amendment B

Article V: The University Council

Section 4: Elected Members

The remainder of the University Council shall consist of members of the faculty ~~with academic rank~~⁶-elected by ~~such~~ faculty, staff elected by the staff, and of students elected by the students.

Amendment C

Article V: The University Council

Section 5: Eligibility

a. Faculty

Any member of the faculty ~~with academic rank~~ shall be eligible for election to the University Council.

Rationale: Brings Statutes into alignment with previous change to the Bylaws.

⁶~~University Statutes, Article X, Section 2.~~
Footnote 7 will become footnote 6