Committee on Statutes, Bylaws, and Committees — Meeting Minutes for 9/10/25

Members present:
- Barbara Biesecker (Chair) — Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
- Christina Hanawalt — Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
- Ruth Harman — Mary Frances Early College of Education
- John Brocato — College of Engineering
- Eric Rubenstein — Past Chair of the Executive Committee

Guests present:
- Mark E. Johnson, Department of Journalism, Chief Technology Officer

Committee Chair Barbara Biesecker called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. The Chair then welcomed new members, welcomed back returning members, and coordinated introductions of new members.

Old Business:
- The Chair updated the committee on the substantial work done by the Chair over the summer on Statutes.
- The Chair then updated the Committee on Proposed Changes to the UC Bylaws that were previously sent back to the Committee by the Executive Committee, which was accompanied by a review of the document containing the proposed changes. Discussion then ensued and was briefly halted when guest Mark Johnson joined the meeting at 1:00 p.m. (item discussed below). Discussion on the proposed bylaw changes resumed with the following decisions:
    - *"Faculty" v. "Corps of Instruction"*: Because there is apparent confusion over the precise definition of the word "Faculty," it was recommended to replace this word with the more encompassing term "Corps of Instruction" throughout the bylaws in question; this motion passed unanimously.
    - *Proposed change to Executive Committee Chair*: This change would limit candidates for Executive Committee Chair to faculty / members of the Corps of Instruction of academic rank with tenure, which was said to be "warranted by the character of the work of the committee, including personnel matters." The initial Committee vote was 4-1 in favor of approval. Further discussion ensued on the language used to describe the reasons for this limitation, and an agreement was reached that this language would be revised to reflect the need for the Executive Committee Chair to have, e.g., "sufficient institutional knowledge / memory as well as familiarity and experience with Executive Committee processes." A new vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.
    - *Proposed change to Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Chair*: This change would eliminate the requirement of "academic rank" in order to include other ranks of faculty "albeit limited to those of the two highest ranks warranted by the character of the work of the committee, including personnel matters." The committee decided there was no reason to impose this limitation on this particular Chair position and unanimously approved expanding the language to include a broader range of faculty / members of the Corps of Instruction who would be able to serve as Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Chair.

- *Proposed changes to Committee on Statutes, Bylaws, and Committees Chair and Curriculum Committee Chair*: The Committee agreed that the wording in question, “Limitation of Curriculum Committee Chair to faculty of academic rank with tenure warranted by the labor-intensive and substantive character of the work of the committee,” should be changed to language reflecting the need for this Chair to possess, e.g., “sufficient institutional knowledge / memory as well as familiarity and experience with Curriculum Committee processes.” However, time limitations prevented the Committee from completing this discussion and vote; the Chair suggested and Committee members agreed that all present might work on draft language for this bylaw and others like it in preparation for future discussion (whether via email or in the next official meeting).

New Business:

- *Proposed Changes to the IT Committee Bylaws*: Mark Johnson, Chair of the IT Committee, joined the meeting to discuss proposed changes to the IT Committee bylaws, specifically to align these bylaws with those of the Vice President of Information Technology’s executive committee, which are also currently being modified. After Mark Johnson left the meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposed changes.
- *Revision to bylaw requiring standing committees to meet within the first three weeks of the semester (revision requested at last week's meeting of the chairs)*: After deciding to change the time in question to five weeks, this item passed unanimously.

There being no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Minutes prepared by John Brocato