

Faculty Advisory Committee

Annual Report 2019-2020 Academic Year

The Faculty Advisory Committee met on the following dates in the 2019-2020 academic year at 2pm in Osborne 107 (unless noted): 8/28; 9/18; 10/30; 11/20; 1/22; 2/19 (in Close-Hipp 219); 3/25 (virtual); 4/22 (virtual).

No minutes were submitted to co-chairs for 10/30 meeting. Technological problems resulted in missing minutes/video for virtual meetings on 3/25 and 4/22.

Membership of the committee:

Andrew Graciano (co-chair / 2021)

Charley Adams (co-chair / 2021)

Chuanbing Tang (2021)

Jennifer Vendemia (2022)

Liam Hein (2022)

Erik Doxtader (2020)

Gina Crosby-Quinatoa (2022)

Nicholas Vazsonyi (2020)

Mark Cooper (ex officio)

Cheryl Addy (ex officio)

Bethany Bell (ex officio, chair of Faculty Welfare)

Charley Adams and Liam Hein were elected co-chairs for 2020-2021.

Issues Discussed and Reviewed by FAC in 2019-2020

- Senate Bylaws: proposed language regarding Faculty Senate leadership succession and removal—change approved by consensus and taken to Senate for a vote.
- College-level (deans') staff searches and appointments—policy, procedure.
- Regular reports of Faculty Senate Chair (Mark Cooper), especially regarding SACS actions, AGB's report on the BoT, and the Provost search.
- ACAF 1.19: approved proposed change to allow instructor of record to be course coordinator, e.g. in science lab sections.

- ACAF 3.70: approved proposed change to separate formal graduation ceremonies from this ACAF to place in BTRU policy, while maintaining that ACAF 3.70 continue to govern other academic ceremonies.
- New HR policy re demotion: policy was sent back for clarification.
- ACAF 1.35 (new): Copyright:: FAC had discussed this in May 2019 with General Counsel representative; policy is discussed again in 8/28 meeting. FAC continued to express concerns about policy language. Policy returned to Counsel and Provost to be revisited.
- Efficiency of FAC meetings: Determined that FAC would use TEAMS to present, discuss and vote on items that would require less discussion so that the face-to-face meetings could be spent on items warranting lengthier debate. Adding time limits to agenda would also help.
- Reactivation of dormant FAC subcommittees, especially Non-TT Promotion Subcommittee. FAC will take over the role of the ad hoc committee on administrative searches. Requested a report from Cheryl Addy about those searches.
- Electronic attendance and voting options for Faculty Senate: a number of options were presented over the course of the academic year, but efforts halted when campus closed in March due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- ACAF 2.03: revisions to policy were approved on TEAMS. Consensus confirmed quickly in f2f meeting in November. [FAC resolved that TEAMS was an effective platform for basic discussion and review of policy revision and to focus discussion at subsequent meetings.]
- FAC was charged with resolving the recommendations of the Beyond the Classroom Management (BTCM) ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee's recommendations revised the make-up and status of the Experiential Learning Outcome Committee (ELOC) in such a way as to create more checks/balances. An ACAF policy was being drafted at the time, relevant to the issue, so FAC decided to wait for the ACAF policy before moving forward.
- FAC discussed the role of the Senate over the numerous faculty committees that exist but are not directly under the purview of the Senate itself. Should/could the Faculty Senate have oversight over their creation, mission, and/or constitution of membership? This was more of a philosophical discussion.
- FAC leadership had to ensure that Bylaws changes approved last year were reflected in the updated Bylaws. Not all changes had been included. Bylaws should now be up to date.
- ACAF 1.60 Modified Duties: proposed revision to say that the dean is the final approver of modified duties requests, while the provost (or designee or chancellor) is the arbiter of appeals. Revision approved on TEAMS. Confirmed approval in meeting, 1/22.
- ACAF 1.39 Software Policy: proposal to delete this outdated policy. Approved in TEAMS. Relevant policy language will be treated and covered in ACAF 1.33 (Intellectual Property) and ACAF 1.35 (Copyright). Confirmed approval of deletion in 1/22 meeting. ACAF 1.33 and 1.35 still under discussion and review.
- ACAF 1.33 (Intellectual Property): proposed policy reviewed and discussed. FAC's concerns were reiterated, particularly with respect to what constituted "substantial use of university resources." Policy shared to IP committee for feedback. General consensus was that FAC approved of the policy in principle, but hopes these questions/concerns will be addressed in the Policy Advising Committee and/or in the open comment period. In 2/19 meeting, concerns were again reiterated among FAC members. Cheryl Addy would contact George Lampl (General Counsel's Office) to ask about specifying what is meant by "commercially exploitable work(s)."

- ACAF 1.35 (Copyright): FAC approves in principle, but requested a copy of the proposed copyright template that is mentioned in the policy. In 2/19 meeting, lingering questions and concerns about policy language and template language were expressed. Suggestions for revision and improvement were made and sent back to the Provost and Counsel.
- Pursuant to the Senate oversight of non-FS university faculty committees, Mark Cooper proposed new language for the Senate bylaws—Article VI, Section 5. Approved in committee. Brought to Senate.
- Invited Sandra Kelly, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education, to discuss the recommendations of the BTCM ad hoc committee and the functioning of the ELOC, and her proposed ACAF policy. The draft policy was approved by FAC. Although FAC does not usually bring ACAF policies to Senate, it resolved to do so in this instance, as it was relevant to scheduled presentations in Senate by the BTCM and CIEL.
- Proposed amendment to bylaws, initiated by a sitting Senator, revising Article II.2, regarding senatorial term limits. New language created, approved. Brought to Senate.
- Proposed amendment to Faculty Manual from the IT Committee, to the committee’s description: Revision returned to the IT Committee requesting new revision with language to indicate that part of the committee’s charge relates to the oversight of DoIT’s governance structure.
- Term limits for administrators. FAC recognizes that it needs to discuss regular reviews of administrators (who does them, when, and are they being done?), and the policy/procedures of searches, reviews, and limits. Ongoing.
- Proposed amendment to Faculty Manual regarding Graduate Faculty.
- Proposed addition to Faculty Manual creating UCPF Committee (University Committee on Professional Track Faculty).
- Proposed language change from Non-Tenure Track to Professional Track.
- Gender identity and preferred pronoun policy. Documents provided for review by Tracey Weldon-Stewart.

Items brought to Faculty Senate and/or General Faculty

- New language for Senate bylaws regarding Faculty Senate leadership succession and removal. Brought to Senate. Approved.
- Revised language for Senate bylaws, Article II, section 2 to read: “Senators may serve no more than two consecutive 3-year terms and no more than 9 years in a 12 year period.” Brought to Senate. Approved.
- New Senate bylaws language: Article VI, section 5:
 “By policy or at the request of university officials, the Senate may be asked to confirm faculty appointments to committees constituted by administrative offices. The Steering Committee will bring such nominations to the Senate for approval at the meeting of the Senate immediately following notification, provided that such notification occurs no less than one week in advance of the Senate meeting. Failure of the Steering Committee or the Senate to act on such nominations shall constitute approval of the appointment.”

Brought to Senate.

- Draft ACAF policy regarding Experiential Learning Outcomes. Brought to Senate for information only.
- Amendment to Faculty Manual regarding Graduate Faculty. Brought to Senate. Approved.
- Addition to Faculty Manual regarding language creating UCPF Committee. Brought to Senate. Approved.