

A Resolution Concerning the Faculty Senate's Authority

Whereas the Faculty Senate has been empowered to “review and establish policy with respect to... All curricular matters, including establishment, dissolution, and substantial changes of degree programs” (CBL 1.1.b); and

Whereas the Faculty Senate is also empowered to “review, to recommend, and to participate in the formulation of policy with regard to institutional priorities; the allocation and utilization of the University's human, fiscal, and physical resources; academic organization, including the establishment or elimination of colleges and departments and the reorganization of the general university and college academic structure; [and] administrative procedures and organizational structure,” among other matters (CBL 1.2.a-c, h); and

Whereas in recent years, but particularly in the current academic year, administrative proposals, including substantial cuts to programs, have been brought forward publicly without clear consultation with the faculty; and

Whereas those proposals require changes to curricula, which is a clear violation of the faculty's, including the Faculty Senate's, authority; and

Whereas the current effort to reorganize the university originally lacked substantial faculty presence on the reorganizational working group (which was a clear case of ignoring the Faculty Senate's authority to participate in formulation of policy) and this was only corrected in response to Faculty Senate demands; and

Whereas the principle of shared governance stipulates that Faculty and Administration collaborate in the long term planning of the University; and

Whereas Faculty Senate and Administration collaboration in long term planning has generally occurred only on an ad hoc basis;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate design regular procedures whereby the Faculty Senate's authority, as cited above, may be fulfilled in a robust, meaningful, and mandatory way; and

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate charge an ad hoc committee* to 1) determine those areas where new procedures for assertion of the Faculty Senate's authority under 1.2 of the Constitution and Bylaws are needed; 2) formulate, and circulate among the faculty for comment, proposals creating regular and mandatory procedures, bodies, and roles to exercise the Faculty Senate's authority in these area; and 3) bring final proposals designed to create regular and mandatory procedures and/or bodies and/or roles that lead to assertion of the Faculty Senate's authority to the Senate for adoption.

Said committee shall be formed and charged before the second Faculty Senate meeting of the Fall of 2021, and be comprised of 2 faculty senators each from CAS and LCOM, 1 faculty

senator each from the other major academic units; the President of the Faculty Senate will also be a member of said committee (ex officio); members shall be elected by the faculty senators of their respective units. Said committee shall report back to the Faculty Senate regularly during the 2021-22 academic year with the intent to present their proposals for review and adoption by the Senate as a whole.

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Katherine Merrill
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*7.3 Ad Hoc Committees. Select committees may be created by the Senate, the Executive Council, or the Senate President for the purpose of studying specific problems and preparing proposals relating thereto. These committees will ordinarily be appointed by the Senate President, after consultation with the Executive Council, but may also be appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Council or of the Faculty Senate. They will terminate when their assignment is complete or within one year of the date of appointment, whichever is shortest. They may be reappointed. An ad hoc committee is directly responsible to the entity appointing it, to which it shall report.