

**Faculty Senate Governance Committee**  
**End of Year Report 2021 – 2022**  
Prepared by Pam Frable, Chair

Governance Committee members were

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Lavonne Adams        | ▪ Marc Neri                    |
| ▪ Guangyan (Gwen) Chen | ▪ Brandy Quinn (Chair Elect)   |
| ▪ Pam Frable (Chair)   | ▪ James Rodriguez (Secretary)  |
| ▪ Peter Frinchaboy     | ▪ Daxton (Chip) Stewart        |
| ▪ Hadi Hosainy         | ▪ Sriram Thirumalai            |
| ▪ Sohyun Lee           | ▪ Sean Atkinson (FSEC Liaison) |
| ▪ Vassil Mihov         |                                |

During 2021-2022 the Committee met six times via Zoom (September, November, December, February, March, and April).

Purpose: Governance Committee (GC): *The Governance Committee shall monitor and revise when needed the Faculty Senate and Faculty-Staff Handbooks, work jointly with the Executive Committee on Senate elections, and monitor the function of the Faculty Senate by recommending changes to improve its governance and effectiveness.* (Section 6D, Article II Faculty Senate in Bylaws of the Faculty Assembly and the Faculty Senate)

### Outcomes for 2021-2022

Standing Charges	Lead	Outcome
1. Revise and edit the Faculty Senate and Faculty-Staff Handbooks to ensure congruence with new programs, policies, and initiatives.	Brandy Quinn, James Rodriguez, Lavonne Adams	Initial handbook update completed and reported to Faculty Senate, April 2022. <b>Discussion.</b> Additional formatting edits will be completed summer 2022.
2. Work jointly with the Executive Committee to nominate candidates for Senate offices.	Pam Frable, Gwen Chen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed a slate of officer candidates, one for each role. Aimed to have competitive elections this year. However, as in the previous two years, several Senators expressed interest but said the timing was not right.</li> <li>The final decision was to use the Zoom poll for the election which occurred during the final Senate meeting, held in a hybrid format</li> </ul>
3. Monitor function and effectiveness of Faculty Senate Committees. a. Make recommendations regarding leadership succession. (Senate Fellow? Senate Intern?)		No activity related to this charge.
4. Develop and implement strategies to increase the visibility, influence, and effectiveness of the FS.	Chip Stewart, Hadi Hosainy, Peter Frinchaboy, Sriram Thirumalai	We did not make progress on this. However, Sean Atkinson shared a list of specific actions that the GC plans to use as the foundation for its work on Charge 4 next year (p. 4).

Special Charges	Lead	Outcome
5. Consider new strategies to encourage more Senators to run for Senate offices	Marc (Lead), Vassil, Brandy, and James	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched New Senator Orientation over summer and fall 2021. Previous GC member Danyelle Ackall was lead for design and implementation of the updated Orientation. Danyelle Ackall handed off the Orientation to Marc Neri</li> <li>Marc Neri planned and will implement the Orientation for new Senators for 2022-2023. We will continue providing the on-demand pre-recorded orientation complemented by in-person orientation QA in fall 2022.</li> </ul>
6. Revise/sustain orientation for new senators.		
7. Develop Governance Committee Handbook	Pam, Gwen	Work in progress to continue in fall.

### Outcomes

Implemented GC Officer Succession pilot. Brandy Quinn served as Chair Elect in 2021-2022 and will serve as Chair in 2022-2023.

- Marc Neri agreed to serve as Chair Elect in 2022-2023. Depending on outcomes of election, he may not be a Senator in 2023-2022, when it will his turn to chair. GC needs to explore and make recommendations regarding this contingency.
- We also want to establish the Secretary as a leadership role.

8. Revise Faculty Advisory Committee Structure as outlined in Faculty Staff Handbook; make recommendations regarding inclusion and role of Professional Practice Faculty and Instructors	Hadi and James	GC did not pursue this while the Faculty Relations Committee worked on a related question regarding PPF.
9. Review and make recommendation about the Sustainability Statement		Reviewed and recommended adoption of the Sustainability Statement. Approved by Senate, November 2021

## Plan for 2022-2023

### Special Charges for 2022-2023

- In addition to the ongoing special charges noted in Outcomes and any to-be-identified special charges GC will receive, GC identified one new special charge: Develop a procedure for how to handle elections when officer positions are uncontested.
- In consultation with FSEC, the GC will need to set priorities among the charges, when we reconvene for 2022-2023. Hadi Hosainy is interested in taking the lead on one of the charges.

### Standing Charges Notes

#### Notes from Sean Atkinson related to Standing Charge 4

- Increase the percentage of promoted faculty (faculty at a rank beyond assistant/instructor I, etc.).
  - Having more senior faculty members involved will also help with historical knowledge.
- Formalize a regular meeting of the heads of all 4 governance groups (Senate, Assembly, SGA, and GSS) in which the groups can coordinate efforts on topics that concern the entire campus community.
  - More joint resolutions from 2 or more groups will have more influence on university administration.
- Create an executive committee pipeline to help ensure strong leadership and diversity.
  - Could go a number of ways, but perhaps begin a culture where chairing a senate committee is a step towards serving on FSEC. Not a requirement, but the committee chairs provide a strong slate of potential candidates for FSEC positions.
- Find ways to include the voices of adjunct and visiting lecturer faculty.
- Encourage active reporting out from the Senate to colleges (and vice versa) by suggesting that Deans include senators on College-level advisory committees.

#### Notes from GC discussions

- Explore how to enhance communication within Senate and communication between Senate and constituents.
  - Support for the Information Officer: What does the Senate need on the website? How can the website support the work of the Senate?

### Special Charges with Notes

- (1) Make recommendations regarding officer terms and elections
  - a) Term limits for officers in FSEC (how long for a term and how many terms). Pros and cons of “best practice” versus mandate?
  - b) Procedures for handling uncontested elections
  - c) Explore timing of elections (time of year and pros/cons of electing two officers one year and the other two the alternate year)
  - d) Update handbook to reflect current election processes
- (2) Creating a Diversity Committee?
  - a. Role description for the Diversity Officer

- (3) Does the Faculty Senate need a Historian?
- (4) Revise/sustain the new Senator Orientation
  - a. Should this be a standing charge? According to the Senate Handbook, new senator orientation falls within the scope of the immediate past chair role. However, it seems the orientation has been implemented intermittently over time. GC recommends that the orientation be a routine offering for all incoming Senators.

#### **Other Notes**

- GC recommends continuing use of a hybrid format for Senate meetings to promote engagement of non-Senators and to facilitate participation of Senators who need flexibility related to the time of Senate meetings. Anecdotally, we heard from faculty who followed the Senate more closely because they could access meetings via Zoom. Some Senators who teach until 3:20 or who have afternoon family commitments have commented the Zoom format facilitated their ability to fulfill their Senate responsibilities.
- GC Chair recommends that we reserve the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays for “make-up” Senate or committee meetings. It is not feasible to simply move a Senate meeting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday and assume that the committee members can meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. Many people have standing Thursday afternoon meetings on all four Thursdays of the month.