

Faculty Senate Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee Report #2003-04-1

Fall 2003

I. BACKGROUND

Starting in the Fall of 2001, a CBUM "Subcommittee" worked on redesigning the University's committee structure. The group's tasks were:

- To eliminate committees that were no longer operational, or had outlived their usefulness;
- To remove from the *University Manual* committees with a scope too narrow to be included in a document containing general rules applying to the university as a whole;
- To update the compositions and the charges of University committees in those case in which a discrepancy between "description on paper" and "real-life functioning" had developed;
- To make sure that the committees listed in the *University Manual* as being in charge of certain matters actually are the places where the decisions on the matters specified are made.

A subsidiary task turned out to be replacing the structure of Chapter 5 of the *University Manual*--a structure which has become rather murky over the years--by a more logical classification of the University's committees.

II. SOON IN A THEATER NEAR YOU . . . (HOPEFULLY)

Several items the CBUM Subcommittee considered are not finalized yet. They are:

- The status of the University Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity Committee and its Subcommittees on Sexual Harassment and on Racial and Ethnic Harassment. Following an extensive hiatus, the Affirmative Action Committee has once again met recently. It and its subcommittees are listed unchanged in the University Manual Chapter 5 Synopsis (see below) under the Presidential Committees; but changes to the present arrangement might be announced shortly.
- The status of the BGS Curriculum Committee (5.80.10-13) and the BGS Scholastic Standing Committee (5.81.10-11). The Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee has been asked to consider, in consultation with ASFCCE, the status of these committees and make recommendations on them to the Faculty Senate if a change is indicated. For the time being, both committees are listed unchanged among the committees under joint purview of the Faculty Senate and the President.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The following committees will be deleted from the *University Manual* (Note: Unless noted otherwise, these committees will continue functioning; but they do not meet the criteria of inclusion in the *University Manual* spelled out in the preamble proposed to Chapter 5). All of them are under presidential (administrative) jurisdiction; thus, their deletion from the *University Manual* does not require Senate action.

- 5.17.10 The Memorial Union Advisory Council
- 5.18.10 The Council for Teacher Education (To be abolished at the request of the College of Human Sciences and Services)
- 5.24.10 The Student Health Advisory Council
- 5.32.10 The University Bookstores Committee
- 5.60.10 The Student Employment Committee
- 5.62.10 The Drug and Alcohol Task Force (Abolished with the President's approval at the request of the Student Affairs Division)
- 5.64.10 The WRIU Advisory Committee

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING FACULTY SENATE ACTION

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the Faculty Senate transfer jurisdiction over the Humanities Center Executive Committee (currently under Faculty Senate jurisdiction) to the College of Arts and Sciences, and that the committee be deleted from the *University Manual* (currently, the committee is described in *Manual* Section 5.39.10).

Note: In its new status as a college committee, the unit would more properly be included in the A & S College By-Laws rather than in the *University Manual*. If the recommendation is approved, the Faculty Senate would retain the same type of jurisdiction over the Center for the Humanities which it currently has, under *Manual* provisions 8.90.10-8.90.40, over other URI centers and similar entities. The recommendation aims at eliminating the anomaly of the Center for the Humanities being the only such entity with an executive committee under direct Faculty Senate control.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the Faculty Senate adopt the following resolution: The Faculty Senate recommends that the President ask the Watson House Committee (currently, the committee is described in *Manual* Section 5.31.10) to consider the advisability of expanding its scope to giving advise on URI historic preservation matters in general, and, if enlarging the committee's scope is considered feasible, to propose to the President a new committee title, a revised charge, and perhaps also an enlarged composition. The President is further asked to inform the Faculty Senate of the results.

Note: While the Faculty Senate can strongly urge the President to act as specified in the resolution, the matter addressed here is under Presidential jurisdiction.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Part A: That the Faculty Senate confirm the jurisdictional division established for the University's committees in the "*University Manual* Chapter 5 Synopsis" given below (Presidential Committees--Committees under direct General Faculty or Graduate Faculty

jurisdiction--Committees under the joint purview of the Faculty Senate and the President).

Note: Approving this recommendation would not only confirm the three categories of committees listed in the synopsis, but also the placement of the individual committees into the categories under which they are listed.

Part B: That the Faculty Senate accept the new preamble to Chapter 5 of the *University Manual* (see below, 5.10.10-5.10.12, with 5.10.10-11 being new, and 5.10.12 being a "compilation" of existing rules).

Part C: That the Faculty Senate adopt/confirm the introductory paragraph (see "synopsis," 5.11.10, below) to the Presidential committees.

Note: Except for the underlined portions, which are new, the provisions of the paragraph are moved to the new location from existing *Manual* provision 5.30.10, except for the last sentence of the current section, which appears now as the second sentence of 5.10.12.

UNIVERSITY MANUAL CHAPTER 5 SYNOPSIS

[Note: In those cases in which committee descriptions consist of more than one *Manual* paragraph, the current number given refers to the first paragraph only. Numbers in parentheses are the current *Manual* paragraph numbers.]

Preamble

5.10.10 Committees, Boards, Councils and other such entities which have a university-wide function are described in this chapter. With few exceptions, committees with a narrower scope are not included here. For information on them, consult policy documents of various campus units, such as college by-laws, where available, and the *Graduate Student Manual*. Standing committees of the Faculty Senate, although having university-wide function, can be found in the by-laws of the Faculty Senate.

5.10.11 The committees included here are organized according to the jurisdictional rubric under which they fall, and are divided into (1) committees falling under presidential jurisdiction; (2) committees falling under direct jurisdiction of the general faculty or of the Graduate Faculty; and (3) committees falling under the joint purview of the Faculty Senate and the President. The division into the various jurisdictional rubrics has been proposed by a CBUM subcommittee on the basis of research conducted during the 2001-02 academic year. This research primarily took into consideration the jurisdictional divide between the President (administration) and the Faculty Senate resulting from Article II of the Senate Constitution; when this was not conclusive, the historic understanding of who had jurisdiction at the time of the establishment of a committee or its predecessor was taken into account. In most cases, these criteria allowed a clear determination of a committee's jurisdictional rubric. To limit future disputes about jurisdiction, the subcommittee proposed that the Faculty Senate endorse and accept the jurisdictional division resulting from the subcommittee's research, the senate did so at its meeting on xx/xx/xx, and the President endorsed the senate legislation on xx/xx/xx.

5.10.12 Faculty, administrators, and staff members are expected to serve on committees, if designated. Each standing committee of the University shall make an annual report for the academic year to its appointing authority.

Note: The first sentence of 5.10.12 is identical with the current 5.10.10; the second sentence is moved to this new location from the current 5.30.10.

Delete current 5.11.10.

The passage to be deleted reads, "Committees on which faculty representation is determined in a prescribed manner (e.g. by virtue of position or by election of the several college faculties) shall be known, generally, as councils or boards." In actual fact, that terminology is no longer operational at the University.

Presidential Committees

5.11.10 University Committees listed under this heading can be formed, abolished, or altered by presidential action, preceded by consultation with relevant groups and/or individuals as appropriate. Committees the President appoints under this authority are not to duplicate or interfere with the work of committees established by the Faculty Senate. Unless otherwise specified, members shall be appointed from the University community with an attempt to ensure administration, faculty, and student representation; in addition, staff members shall be appointed in accordance with collective bargaining agreements. Members shall serve two-year terms, one-half of the appointments to be made each year; the President shall designate the chairperson.

Except for the underlined portion and the deletion of the section title ("Standing Committees of the University"), this paragraph is identical to the current *Manual* section 5.30.10. The President is urged to keep the description of committees included under this rubric up-to-date, to ensure that an accurate reflection of the actual workings of the University is provided. This includes, but is not limited to, a timely elimination of listings of committees no longer utilized.

- 5.12.10 The Deans' Council (5.12.10).
- 5.14.10 The Athletics Advisory Board (5.14.10).
- 5.22.10 The Information Resources Council (5.22.10).
- 5.25.10 The Institutional Review Board (5.25.10).
- 5.26.10 The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (5.84.10).
- 5.27.10 The Diving Control Board (5.27.10).
- 5.30.10 The Intellectual Property Committee (5.85.10).
- 5.34.10 The Commencement Committee (5.34.10).
- 5.37.10 The Committee to Improve the Campus Environment (5.37.10)
- 5.40.10 The Campus Master Plan Review Team (5.40.10)
- 5.41.10 The Space Enhancement, Design, and Allocation Committee (5.41.10)
- 5.42.10 Building Committees (5.42.10)
- 5.43.10 The Student Orientation Committee (5.43.10).
- 5.47.10 The Campus Security and Parking Advisory Committee (5.47.10).
- 5.54.10 The University Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity Committee (5.47.10).
- 5.54.20 Subcommittee on Sexual Harassment and on Racial and Ethnic Harassment (5.54.20).

- 5.50.10 The Health Professions Advisory Committee (5.50.10).
- 5.55.10 The Native American Committee (5.55.10).

Committees under direct General Faculty or Graduate Faculty jurisdiction

- 5.60.10 The Honorary Degree Committee [General Faculty jurisdiction] (5.35.10).
- 5.65.10 The Graduate Council [Graduate Faculty jurisdiction] (5.16.10).

Committees under the joint purview of the Faculty Senate and the President

- 5.70.10 The Joint Strategic Planning Committee (5.70.10).
- 5.71.10 The Competitive Grants Advisory Committee (5.71.10).
- 5.72.10 The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (5.65.10).
- 5.73.10 The Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee (5.56.10)
- 5.74.10 The University Judicial Board (5.19.10);
- 5.74.20 Hearing Panels (5.19.20).
- 5.75.10 The University Appeals Board. (5.20.10)
- 5.76.10 Administrator Evaluation Committees (5.75.10)
- 5.77.10 Admissions Advisory Committee (5.77.10).
- 5.80.10 The BGS Curriculum Committee (5.80.10)
- 5.81.10 The BGS Scholastic Standing Committee (5.81.10)