By-Laws Meeting Minutes, Sept. 29, 2016, 2:00 pm
Attending: Jason Vance, Laura Penny, Carl Wise, Todd McNerny, Jannette Finch
Guests: Simon Lewis and Alex Kasman

Minutes compiled by Jason Vance and Laura Penny.

- Meeting agenda was presented, and Sept. 29, 2016 ByLaws/FAM Meeting minutes were approved.

- Committee discussed the Motion to Alter Composition of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the President. Motion author and sponsor Simon Lewis and Alex Kasman were in attendance to discuss the motion. Alex and Simon reiterated that revising the committee composition will strengthen shared governance by facilitating communication across several committees. This would inherently reduce committees functioning as separate, unrelated modules, and may reduce redundancy across committees. Furthermore, ensuring consistent committee representation may help build rapport and accountability between the President and FACP across academic years. Alex and Simon closed with the impact of the pending Motion to Increase Duration of Faculty Service, where increasing consecutive service may further strengthen the relationship between the FACP and President, by maintaining continuity of addressing major issues that span multiple FYs.

The ByLaws/FAM Committee noted that there may be challenges to seat the Committee if the FACP required obligatory membership from selected Committee chairs, since faculty may only serve on two standing committees, and Committee Chairs may have other ex officio or elective participation elsewhere. We suggested revising language to reflect "Committee Chairs or designated Committee Members".

The ByLaws/FAM Committee further questioned whether the 6 committees identified in the proposed composition were the most logical or strategic to be represented on the FACP. For example, the General Education Committee may have more influence on policies that affect faculty and departments than the Curriculum Committee. Likewise, what about Academic Standards and Admissions Committee? However, it was discussed that since 6 other committee members are appointed by N&E, these appointments could be strategic if those committees not represented in the proposed composition were to request N&E to consider representation.

With the approval of Simon and Alex, the pending Motion was revised to identify "The chair, or designated member..." from the six selected Committees, and the Curriculum Committee was replaced by representation from the General Education Committee. A report from this meeting, and comments from the Sept. 13th Senate meeting were compiled and presented at the October 11th Senate meeting.

- The Bylaws/FAM Committee discussed the pending Motion to Increase the Number of Years Faculty May Serve on Committees. The discussion was limited to identifying the language
clarifying how non-consecutive service on the Committee would be counted, with respect to requiring a three-year lapse. Current language in the Bylaws/FAM regarding committee service require a 3-year lapse after 3 consecutive years of service. However, no language presently addresses non-consecutive service, either; e.g. if a faculty member serves 1 year on followed by 1 year off, are they still allowed 3 consecutive years without being required to take a 3-year hiatus? What is the likelihood of this and/or historical occurrence of this? The Committee agreed that language limiting intermittent service would be necessary before the motion would be presented before the Senate.

- Christine Finnan, chair of The Committee on Graduate Education, Continuing Education, and Special Programs contacted Jason regarding a draft Motion that proposed splitting the current committee into two separate committees: Graduate Education and Continuing Education. Based on the draft provided by Christine, the proposal is focused primarily on the Graduate Education and lacks details on the Continuing Education committee. We discussed that Graduate school admissions should be included in the graduate education committee. Questions raised included: Was Continuing Education consulted in regards to this proposal? Is it possible to poll the current committee members on the current load? Jason is scheduled to meet with Christine on Oct. 3rd to discuss our Committee's questions and concerns about the proposal, and to provide information that may help Christine and the Grad. Ed/Cont. Ed Committee craft their proposal.