

William Paterson University Faculty Senate Councils
Year-End Report

Academic Year 2022-2023

1. Council: Governance Council

2. **Council Members:** Ellen Pozzi [COE-2023], Gary Marks (Chair) [LIB-2023], Solomon Nyaanga [COB-2024], Venkat Sharma [ADMIN-2023], Johanna Prado [PS-2023], Chester Verceglia [AD]-2023], Teresa Purcell Giles [COAHSS- 2024], Madeleine Rosar [COSH-2024]

3. Council Charges and Summary of Activities:

Standing Charges:

1. Delineate the role of the Faculty Senate in University governance.
2. Review the various governance statements.
3. Recommend patterns of and responsibilities for self-governance by colleges, schools, institutes, divisions and faculties.
4. Review the Policy Manual periodically and suggest policies that need to be reviewed, revised and/or updated.
5. Review proposed amendments to the Faculty Senate By-Laws and Constitution. To provide guidance to the Faculty Senate in the interpretation of proposals and amendment procedures. To maintain accurate records of Faculty Senate Governing documents, including historical records outlining all amendments and alterations.

Priority Charges for AY 2022-2023:

1. Follow up with the Senate Executive Council on outstanding Constitution Amendments.
2. Conclude Council charges alignment review.
3. Assess the need for handbooks or manuals for existing Senate Councils and the Senate Executive Committee to ensure continuity.
4. Ensure the Senate returns to keeping Council records and documents and publishing them on the Senate website.

2022-2023 Summary of Activities:

The Governance Council accomplished most of the AY 2022-23 Priority Charges. In response to Priority charge #1, the council provided a list of outstanding Constitutional Amendments to the Senate Executive Committee and met with the Senate Chair on several occasions to follow up on the status of the Amendments. The Senate Chair is coordinating the completion of the Amendment process with the University President.

The council moved forward on Priority Charge #2 by attempting to meet with each of the Senate Councils. The council took advantage of this opportunity to include Priority Charge #3 in the meeting discussions. Due to the scope of these charges the Council drafted a comprehensive report ([Governance Council Alignment Report.pdf](#)) and submitted it to the Senate for consideration. The council was unable to meet and conclude its review with three

councils, and did not meet with the SEC for Priority Charge #3. The council intends to meet with the outstanding councils and the SEC during AY 2023-24.

In response to Priority Charge #4, the Senate Secretary returned to requesting councils submit monthly minutes for posting to the Senate website. This practice has helped, but consistency in responses from councils is still a concern. Governance began asking other councils how they store their council records and documents and intends to survey the councils in AY 2023-24 for a comprehensive view of this practice. A discussion emerged within the council on the potential of using Sharepoint as a central council document storage option.

Additional council accomplishments.

The council concluded its multi-year work on Senate Representation. The council began examining Senate Representation in response to academic reorganization in AY 2019-20. The multi-year effort provided the council with tremendous insights into the governance structures at peer academic institutions. The council would welcome the continuation of this discussion in the future.

The council also spent much time drafting a Bylaw amendment for the establishment of a new Senate Diversity Council. In addition, the Council drafted an expansive set of criteria as a model for the recognition of Affinity Caucuses on campus. The Senate subsequently amended the Bylaws to create a new Diversity Council. We hope the model criteria drafted by the council for the recognition of caucuses is useful to the new council.

Recommended Charges for the Next Academic Year:

1. Follow up with SEC and outstanding councils to complete AY 2022-23 Priority Charges 2 & 3.
2. Collaborate with the Technology Council on possible use of Sharepoint as a Senate Council document storage option.
3. Collaborate with Senate Councils to draft necessary Bylaw amendments in regard to Standing Charges as identified in the Governance Councils Alignment Report.

- 5. Please provide suggestions for how the council can be better utilized in the next year:**
Have the Senate review Governance documents and seek input from the Governance Council on operational and structural Senate needs.