

Year-End Report

1. **Council:** Governance Council

2. **Academic Year:** 2020-21

3. **Council Members:** Fanny Lauby [COHSS-2022], Lashauna Dean [COE-2021], Gary Marks [LIB-2021](Co-Chair), Elizabeth Galetz [CSH-2022](Co-Chair), Solomon Nyaanga [COB-2022], Diana Peck [COAC-2022], Venkat Sharma [ADMIN-2021], Johanna Prado [PS-2021], Chester Verceglia [ADJ]-2021]

4. Council Charges and Summary of Council 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.

5. Priority Charges 2020-21

1. Review and recommend models to be presented to the Senate for discussion of future structure of the Senate

6. 2020-21 Governance Council Summary of Activities

The Governance Council made great strides this academic year in fulfilling its standing and priority charges. The council reviewed priority charge #1 by continuing to conduct research on various Senate Representation structures. Research which culminated in a preliminary report to the faculty Senate outlining various representative models [[Models of Representation](#)] and a summary comparative document outlining the representative structures employed by our peer institutions [[Representation Review](#)].

The council began AY 2020-21 by addressing the operational challenges forced upon the senate by the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Spring 2020 semester. The council prepared and introduced Constitutional Amendments outlining a pathway for Senate operations to continue when the Senate is physically unable to meet in person.

Other Constitutional Amendments were also introduced by the Council in AY 2020-21 and they included minor changes to language clarifying the appropriate use of Robert's Rules of Order for Parliamentary Procedures and aligning the

constitution with current practices by amending the process by which guests at Senate meetings can be granted the privilege to address the senate.

The largest and most complex Constitutional amendment introduced by the Council in 2020-21 updated the Amendment Procedures of the Constitution itself. The new procedure provides clarity to the amendment process.

In total the council introduced, and the Senate ultimately adopted 4 Constitution Amendments in AY 2020-21 (Standing Charge #5). [[2020-21 Amendments](#)]

The University announced the merger of the Colleges of Arts & Communication and Humanities & Social Sciences in January 2020. The council reviewed the Senate operations and structures impacted by the merger and provided the Senate Executive Committee with a report of that review and a recommendation for the AY 2021-22 Senate Council structure given the impact of the College merger. ([See GC Recommendation on council Structure AY 2021-22](#))

The Council also addressed a question regarding the eligibility of NTTTP personnel to serve as Senators or as College Representatives on Senate councils. Our interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws related to this question was provided to the SEC indicating that the Council believed there were no existing provisions prohibiting NTTTP service as senators or Council members and suggested the SEC consult the AFT leadership to confirm NTTTP status outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement [[Memo to SEC Feb 2021](#)].

Recommended Charges For The Next Academic Year: Standing Charges should remain unchanged.

Recommended Priority Charges 2020-21

1. Plan and execute Open Forums for the University community to discuss Faculty Senate Representation.
2. Continue to review and research various models of Faculty Senate representation.
3. Draft Constitutional amendment to align Ex-officio Senators with current existing roles (SGA representation needs to be updated).
4. Recommend a workflow procedure for Constitutional Amendment approval from Office of the President & BOT.

Please provide suggestions for how the council can be better utilized in the next year:

Prioritize operational and structural recommendations from the council for Senate review.