

A quick overview of the proposed governance plan of the President

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Chair College Council

Chair, Bylaws Committee

Background facts:

- This proposal of the President was never brought up in any way to the Bylaws Committee (purpose: "Conduct ongoing review of the Governance Plan of the College and to recommend revisions to the Plan"); it was not discussed by the Institutional Planning Committee (IPC); nor was it discussed with the Executive Committee of the College Council.
- The current draft governance proposal -- a modest clean up of the last revision -- of the Bylaws Committee was sent to the President for review in November 2019; in December 2020 it was relayed that the Bylaws committee could proceed with the vetting process; the request to the Provost to discuss at General Chairs in February 2021 was not approved (full agenda); the request to distribute to the department chairs for discussion at the March 2021 meetings was ignored.
- The current bylaws can be amended:

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS Section 1. Amendments to Articles I through III

A proposal to alter any provision of Articles I through III may be initiated by the President or by a two-thirds vote of the College Council. Such proposals shall then be submitted to a referendum of the instructional staff. The proposed amendment is to be deemed adopted if approved by a majority of those voting (provided that at least 30% vote), by the President, and by the Board of Trustees

The interpretation of "instructional staff" has historically been full time instructional staff. This has been the case the past two times there has been a referendum. The last time, there was consultation with CUNY's legal team on this.

Article I. The CSI General Assembly

- Includes all members of the [instructional staff](#)

*which includes Administrators, FT Faculty, HEOs, CUNY Start members, and **Adjunct** Faculty but **not** students*

- President presides
- meetings each semester

➤**NOTE:** *The section above replaces the College Council which has 74 members, nearly all elected or appointed. The CC has an elected leadership and meets monthly. The CC Executive Committee has monthly meetings with the President. The President's proposed General Assembly: contains no mechanism to hold a meeting except online; is chaired by the President; and completely removes all of the committees of the College Council.*

Article II. The CSI College Senate

1. Fifty faculty, including department chairs.
2. The President and Vice President of Student Government.
3. Two members in the College Laboratory Technicians Series.
4. Five members in the Higher Education Officer Series.
5. Ex officio membership, with vote, shall include the President, Provost, vice presidents, and academic deans.

(About 70 members. Currently ~ 50 faculty; 2 students, 7 staff, 2+5 + 5ish administrators)

1. Policy Functions
 - a. Academic affairs, including curriculum, degree requirements, grading, awarding of credits, degrees, honors, and student evaluations.
 - b. Planning for the continued development of the college.
 - c. Practices for the protection of academic freedom.
2. Advisory Functions
 - a. Advise the President, Provost, vice presidents, academic deans, and department chairs concerning procedures for faculty appointments, reappointments, promotions, tenure, and dismissals.
 - b. Assist the College Personnel and Budget Committee on college budgetary priorities.
 - c. Recommend action to other bodies, including auxiliaries and facilities.
 - d. Recommend changes in matters related to technology and telecommunications.
 - e. Consider and recommend revisions to the Governance Plan as needed.

Executive Committee

1. The membership of the Executive Committee shall be taken from the College Senate membership,
 - President, chair
 - Chief of Staff
 - Provost
 - HEO member
 - 5 faculty (one from each D/S)

The purpose of the Executive Committee will be to establish meeting dates of the College Senate, set the agenda for College Senate meetings, and discuss issues facing the college.

➤ **NOTE:** *The above proposed College Senate runs counter to view that Faculty should be primary decision makers about curriculum (allows HEO vote). There is no mention of when this Executive Committee would meet. The standing committees have no requirement that their actions be brought to this Executive Committee for a vote. Currently the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has elected membership that meets with the Provost monthly.*

Article III. Faculty Participation in All College, Division/School and Department Committees

A. The term of service for all college, division/school and department committees shall be two years.

[➤ *Term was typically three years*]

B. No person shall be elected to more than two consecutive two-year terms on any committee. Members may stand again for election after a two-year interval.

[➤ *NEW*]

C. No person shall be elected to serve simultaneously on more than one college-level standing committee.

[➤ *NEW*]

D. All elections to the College Senate and college, division/school, and department committees will be held by secret ballot.

[➤ *NEW*]

➤ **NOTE:** *These terms limits/rules would quiet voices who have earned experience and disrupt institutional memory.*

Article IV. College Personnel and Budget Committee (**NEW**)

A. Functions:

The College Personnel and Budget Committee advises the President with respect to recommendations for appointments and reappointments, tenure, certificate of continuous employment, promotion, leaves and fellowships, instructional personnel policies and procedures, and proposals and policies having instructional budgetary implications. It also makes recommendations on the annual College Budget Request prepared by the President. The President shall consider this input in making recommendations on such matters to the Board.

B. Membership: President, Provost, CFO (NEW), academic deans (NEW), chairs of each of the division/school personnel and budget committees (NEW), and two students selected by the Student Government (NEW).

➤ **NOTE:** *The proposed committee membership allows students a vote on promotion, reshapes the voting numbers for final approval of promotion and tenure (previously was all chairs with a vote; this proposal gives votes to five faculty, two students, and eight administrators). It replaces the budget committee with non-elected members.*

Article V. Department Tenure and Promotion Committees

[➤ **NEW:** *Division/School Personnel and Budget Committees*]

“These committees shall consider and make recommendations for appointments and reappointments with tenure to the appropriate division/school Personnel and Budget Committee.”

Article VI. Academic Review Committees (NEW)

A. The Division/School Academic Review Committee

B. The College Academic Review Committee

Article VII. VOTING Faculties

Voting faculties of each division/school shall include, in each division/school, full-time members of faculty rank, full-time instructors who have been reappointed for three consecutive years, full-time members of the college lab technician series who have been reappointed for three years (NEW), the academic dean, any associate deans, and any assistant deans (NEW).

➤ **NOTE:** *This is a substantial change. Currently, only faculty vote on the faculty representation from a division or school.*

Article IX. Division/School Structure

Division/school faculty shall meet at least once every semester. Special meetings may be convened by the dean of the division/school or by petition of ten percent of the division/school faculties (NEW).

Ex officio members in each division/school faculty shall include the President, the Provost, the Dean, and any associate or assistant deans (NEW).

Article X. Standing Committees

Academic freedom

One tenured full professor from each division/school, chosen by the division/school dean. (NEW). The committee shall elect a chair at the first meeting.

➤ **NOTE:** Current: Five full-time faculty members holding the rank of tenured full professor appointed by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. This committee rarely meets, but is very important when it does. Typically, academic freedom issues are between faculty and administration. Having faculty representation *chosen* by deans is a substantial change.

Admission

One faculty member elected from each division/school (5) (*reduced*), director of admissions, bursar, director of financial aid, director of advisement, one student selected by the Student Government, and the chief enrollment officer who serves as chair (*new as chair; was ex officio without vote*).

Decisions of the committee may be appealed to the Provost (NEW).

➤ **NOTE:** *The proposed membership reduces the faculty cohort; it empowers the administration with a vote; it reports directly to the Provost not the Faculty Senate.*

Academic Standing (*currently Course and Standing*)

One faculty member elected from each division/school, the registrar, one student, an associate provost who serves as chair

Decisions of the committee may be appealed to the provost (NEW).

➤ **NOTE:** *The current committee has 13 faculty, an elected chair, and reports to the Faculty Senate. The proposed committee does not report to the Senate.*

Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness (NEW)

Consistent with expectations of accrediting agencies, continuously assess the college's programs and services including student learning and achievement, review assessment results, and incorporate their recommendations in making changes which lead to improvement.

Membership: One faculty member **appointed** by the dean from each division/school, the director of assessment, the director of institutional research, the vice president for student affairs, and the Provost who serves as chair.

➤ **NOTE:** *Broad deferral to Provost is implicit here. The membership structure bypasses any elected representation.*

Curriculum and Articulation (would replace General Education)

Purpose: Considers programs, curriculum, and articulation matters that cross divisions/schools or are college-wide or university-wide in nature including courses that satisfy General Education requirements. Recommendations are forwarded to the College Senate and submitted to the President for approval.

Membership: Two faculty members elected from each division/school, an associate provost, the academic deans, the registrar, two students selected by the Student Government, and the Provost who serves as chair. **(NEW)**

➤ **NOTE:** *The proposed committee would have 19 members, 10 of which are faculty. The current General Education Committee has one member from each department, one student; the associate provost, and a member from Interdisciplinary Programs. The proposed committee gives Interdisciplinary Programs no voice.*

Curriculum — Undergraduate

Each department and division/school shall establish an Undergraduate Curriculum Committee to review, evaluate, and make recommendations concerning its undergraduate programs including majors, minors, pre-majors, certificates, and concentrations, and the courses within such programs.

Recommendations from the Department Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will be forwarded to the division/school Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for consideration. Recommendations from the division/school Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will be forwarded to the College Senate for review and submission to the President for approval.

➤ **NOTE:** *The proposal would introduce division/school undergraduate curriculum committees that would then forward recommendations to the College Senate for review, not approval. This requires departments to have a committee; division/school committees include two faculty per department (one is the chair) and the dean (serving as Chair).*

Library

One faculty member elected from each department, two students selected by Student Government, CIO **(NEW)**, chief facilities officer **(NEW)**, the director of the library who serves as chair.

➤**NOTE:** *The proposed membership includes no graduate students and no Interdisciplinary Committee members.*

Research

Reviews the research policies of the college, encourages best practices to foster a culture of compliance, supports researchers in their work, reviews proposals for institutional funding support, and makes recommendations on awards. Institutional funding will be contingent on availability of funds. Makes recommendations to the provost.

One faculty member elected from each division/school, one representative appointed by the provost, and the chief research officer who serves as chair **(NEW)**.

➤**NOTE:** *The current Research Committee has nine elected faculty and an elected chair. The new proposal shifts the committee's role, which was to "Review and assess the research policies of the College, recommend directions for research development, and advise the Administration on encouraging and expanding research opportunities."*

Student Affairs **(NEW)**

Purpose: Considers and makes recommendations to ensure student-centric delivery of services. Includes financial aid, counseling, registration, bookstore, dining services, student organizations, technology, and extracurricular activities.

Membership: Four students selected by student government, one faculty member elected from each division/school, one representative from each of the following offices: information technology, student life, financial aid, counseling, registrar, bookstore, and dining services. The chief officer of student affairs will serve as chair.

Reports will be made to the College Senate. Recommendations may be appealed to the President.

➤**NOTE:** The proposal mentions reports only and makes no allowance for review or approval of recommendations. Only five of the 17 committee members are faculty.

Student Evaluation of Courses and Teaching **(NEW)**

Purpose: Reviews and makes recommendations on processes related to student evaluation of courses and teaching in accordance with the policies and regulations of the Board of Trustees. Reports shall be made to the College Senate and submitted to the President for approval.

Membership: One faculty member elected from each division/school, two students selected by Student Government, the academic deans, and the Provost who serves as chair.

➤**NOTE:** *The proposal mentions reports only and makes no allowance for review or approval of recommendations by the senate. The provost chairs, and just five of the nine members are faculty.*

Technology (currently Academic Technology Committee)

Purpose: Considers matters related to the academic technology needs of faculty and students. Advises the campus on matters regarding the integration of technology, including the development and planning of computing and telecommunications services into the structure of the college. Reports shall be made to the College Senate and submitted to the President for approval.

Membership: One faculty member from each division/school, two students selected by Student Government, the academic deans or designees, and the chief information officer who serves as chair.

➤**NOTE:** *Current membership is the Chief Technology Officer, one faculty per division and school and four at-large faculty, and one student. Currently, actions are approved by the Faculty Senate.*

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➤**NOTE:** *Representation*

The bulk of these committees use the model of one faculty member (elected or appointed by a dean) from each division or school. This is a radical change of voice, as this means 60% of the faculty on these committees represent less than 20-25% of the faculty (Roughly, the division of HSS is ~ 50% of the FT faculty, S&T ~ 3/10th and the schools 2/10th). In the current governance care is taken to ensure a more balanced representation and at-large representation.