

Minutes

Meeting of the Rules Committee October 22, 2010, 2:00 p.m. Room 104 Melson

The meeting was called to order by Aanstoos at 2:00

Present: Aanstoos, Aldrich, Best, Crager, DeFoor, Ringlaben, Simpson, Stanfield

Absent: Kim, Ponder

1. New members Ravic Ringlaben and Andrea Stanfield were introduced and welcomed.
2. The minutes of the September 24, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously with no changes.
3. The committee discussed the proposal to specify who shall be considered faculty, for purposes of eligibility to serve on Senate and be included in apportionment counts. Following discussion and amendments, the committee unanimously approved the following motion to be sent to the Senate. (See Appendix 1 for the accompanying material.)

The Rules Committee recommends that the Senate clarify the definition of “faculty” to “voting members of the general faculty” for purposes of eligibility to serve on the Senate and for the basis of the representative apportionment of senators. The Committee recommends that this clarification be achieved by adding the words “the voting” immediately prior to the word “members” in Section 2.C.1 of Article I of the UWG *Policies and Procedures*, which currently reads: “...The Senate shall be comprised solely of members of the General Faculty...”

4. The Committee discussed three proposals concerning improvements to the process of collaborative consultation between faculty and administration. These included whether to recommend: that the Chair of the Senate should serve on PAC and the Administrative Council; that the members of the Senate’s executive committee should be accorded reassigned time for their service; and that the meaning of “consultation” in the *Policies and Procedures* should be further specified. The committee decided to postpone any recommendations on these matters until its October 29 meeting, which will include a conversation with Dr. Sethna.
5. The Committee discussed the question of revising the definition of a “quorum” for general faculty meetings. Consensus focused on redefining the meaning of “meeting” to include electronic balloting. A decision was deferred to the November meeting of the Committee.
6. The Committee discussed various ways to apportion senators. A decision on a recommendation was deferred until the next meeting.
7. Without objection, the committee decided to table the remaining agenda items until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

APPENDIX 1

Proposal to Clarify Who Is Eligible Faculty

Proposal

The Rules Committee recommends that the Senate clarify the definition of “faculty” to “voting members of the general faculty” for purposes of eligibility to serve on the Senate and for the basis of the representative apportionment of senators. The Committee recommends that this clarification be achieved by adding the words “the voting” immediately prior to the word “members” in Section 2.C.1 of Article I of the UWG *Policies and Procedures*, which currently reads: “...The Senate shall be comprised solely of members of the General Faculty...”

Rationale

This clarification is needed because there is an ambiguity introduced by the failure to distinguish between “voting” and “nonvoting” members of the General Faculty in the *Policies and Procedures* manual. That ambiguity leaves unresolved the issue of whether part-time faculty should be eligible to serve I the Senate and/or be included in apportionment counts for the distributive allocation of senators.

In its specification of who is eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate, the UWG *Policies and Procedures* (in Section 2.A.of Article IV) currently defines faculty by referring to the UWG *Statutes* definition: “The Senate shall be comprised solely of members of the General Faculty as defined in Article I, Section 2C of the Statutes.”

This referenced passage of the *Statutes* states:

“1. The General Faculty shall consist of those persons holding the academic rank of lecturer, senior lecturer, instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor duly certified librarians, and research and extension personnel included in the corps of instruction on the basis of comparable training, who are employed on a calendar or academic year basis, together with the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, the academic and administrative deans, the directors of activities relating to instruction, the Registrar, the Director of Admissions and the Vice President for Business and Finance. Visiting professors, part-time faculty members and those holding emeritus rank shall be nonvoting members of the General Faculty (*Policies*, Board of Regents, Section #302.02).”
[see End Note 1]

Because both “voting” and “nonvoting” categories are included in the “General Faculty” and because the *Policies and Procedures* manual references this definition without making the distinction in the *Statutes* between voting and nonvoting, it may appear that it includes part-time faculty as being eligible to serve in the Senate.

The Board of Regents’ *Policy Manual*, which is the ultimate authority cited by the *Statutes*, clearly states that those with adjunct appointments “shall not be considered to be members of the faculty.” Furthermore, at UWG, it has been customary for the Senate to consider part-time faculty as ineligible for Senate memberships, nor have their numbers been included in the counts of faculty that have formed the basis for apportionment of senators. This same distinction is also customary at other university Senates in the USG (see, for example, End Note 2).

End Note 1

The reference to “Section #302.02” refers to an earlier version of the Board of Regents’ *Policy Manual* - Section 3.2.1.1 is the current version. Note that whereas the current Section #3.2.2 does not define who is faculty, Section #3.2.1.1 does do so. And that, in doing so, it clearly states that: “Persons holding adjunct appointments ... shall not be considered to be members of the faculty.”

From the Board of Regents’ *Policy Manual*:

3.2.1 Faculty Membership

In all institutions, the faculty will consist of the corps of instruction and the administrative officers.

3.2.1.1 Corps of Instruction

Full-time professors, associate professors, assistant professors, instructors, lecturers, senior lecturers, and teaching personnel with such other titles as may be approved by the Board, shall be the Corps of Instruction. Full-time research and extension personnel and duly certified librarians will be included in the Corps of Instruction on the basis of comparable training. Persons holding adjunct appointments or other honorary titles shall not be considered to be members of the faculty.

3.2.1.2 Administrative Officers

Faculty status of full-time administrative officers will necessarily vary with the size and complexity of the institution. A faculty member who has academic rank and rights of tenure in the Corps of Instruction and who accepts an appointment to an administrative office (other than president) shall retain his/her academic rank and rights of tenure as an ex officio member of the Corps of Instruction, but shall have no rights of tenure in the administrative office to which he/she has been appointed.

The additional salary, if any, for the administrative position shall be stated in the employment contract and shall not be paid to the faculty member when he/she ceases to hold the administrative position. An administrative officer having faculty status shall have all the responsibilities and privileges of faculty membership. Administrative officers shall be appointed by the president with the approval of the Board of Regents and shall hold office at the pleasure of the president.

3.2.1.3 Other Faculty Members

Research and Regional Universities

In addition to the Corps of Instruction, the faculty will include the president, administrative and academic deans, registrar, librarian, chief fiscal officer, and such other full-time administrative officers as the statutes of the institution may designate as having ex officio faculty status.

Each institution is required to file with the office of the Board of Regents a list of administrative officers that have faculty status (by office, not by name of individual).

State Universities, State Colleges, and Two-Year Colleges

In addition to the Corps of Instruction, the faculty will consist of the president and the full-time administrative officers, and such other full-time administrative officers as the statutes of the institution may designate as having ex officio status. Each institution is required to file with the office of the Board of Regents a list of administrative officers that have faculty status (by office, not by name of individual) (BoR Minutes, 1951-52, pp. 314-319; 1952-53, pp. 159-160; 1953-54, p. 225).

3.2.2 Election of Faculties

The Board shall elect all faculty members prior to their initial appointments upon the recommendations of the Chancellor and the president of the appropriate institution. The Chancellor is authorized to approve the appointment of part-time faculty members, other than those faculty members who have previously retired from the USG (BoR Minutes 1984-85, p. 76)

End Note 2

The following material, taken from the Georgia Southern University *Faculty Senate Guide*, is presented here as an example of how this question was resolved at a similar UWG institution.

Who is “Faculty”?

- The Board of Regents defines “faculty” as all full-time personnel holding academic rank. This category includes full-time temporary, permanent non-tenured, tenure-track, and tenured teaching and research personnel (including librarians), as well as administrators (vice presidents, deans, chairs, etc.) who hold academic rank; part-time temporaries and other adjunct personnel are not considered “faculty.”
- That is, what in everyday parlance most people would call “faculty” is defined by the BOR as the “Corps of Instruction.” Therefore, when crafting policies and especially policy language, we need to be careful with our terminology.
- All members of the faculty may vote in Faculty Senate elections. Temporary faculty, however, may not run for or serve on the Senate or its committees because election to such positions could be misinterpreted as a promise of future employment.
- While there is no policy that prohibits administrators who are members of the faculty from serving on the Senate and/or its committees, it has become customary at Georgia Southern for such folks to recuse themselves.

NOTE: This definition of “faculty” is relevant re: the Faculty Senate and its committees, and University Committees. It does not necessarily apply in all circumstances pertaining to individual college, department, or other university sub-unit shared governance situations (for example, faculty recommendations regarding tenure or promotion). However, it is strongly recommended that BOR-defined faculty not be excluded from shared governance situations unless overwhelming arguments can be marshaled to support that exclusion. We want as little class, caste, or in-group dynamic in our faculty as we can achieve.