GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION

At its meeting on May 13, 2021, the Faculty Senate approved legislation that would amend the Faculty Code related to creating a new Faculty Council. These changes have been approved at every step of the legislative process. The Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning has developed and approved this legislation.

Please vote by June 4, 2021.

Proposed Legislation
Background and Rationale

On March 4, 2021, the Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning approved the following proposed Class A legislation for submission to the Faculty Senate.

There are currently eleven faculty councils and they cover a wide range of topics that affect the UW. However, none of the faculty councils directly focus on the use of technology that directly affect the day-to-day lives of faculty, staff, and students. Over the years, as technology has grown more ubiquitous in our everyday lives, responsibility for oversight of the use of technology has been given to various faculty councils. Given the overwhelming use of technology which will only continue to grow, this has significantly increased the workload of faculty councils whose focus is on other issues.

The importance of technology in the academic enterprise and in managing work flow at UW was increasing even before the pandemic. Its importance has grown exponentially since we all started working and teaching from home and this increased importance has brought new focus on the need for a faculty council that will solely focus on technological issues.

A new faculty council on information technology and cybersecurity would be able to directly address policy issues relating to the use of technology at the university. Faculty need a stronger voice in how these policies are made and implemented and this new council will help make sure that happens.

Counter Arguments to Proposals

The topics outlined for deliberation by the proposed council might be construed as very broad and many already have either mandatory state/federal compliance structures, existing university governance structures that include faculty, or both.

Arguments have been made for further specificity of the proposed new council’s definition and scope.

Proposed Changes

These are the following changes that are made to the Faculty Code:
- Adding a 12th council in Section 42-31A.
- Encouraging the Senate Executive Committee to make every effort to have at least one representative from UW Bothell and UW Tacoma on each faculty council in in Section 42-32D.
- The duties, powers, and responsibilities of the new council are listed in Section 42-50

Proposed Amendment to the Faculty Code:
(Additions are underlined; deletions are struck through)

University of Washington
Faculty Code and Governance
Faculty Code Chapter 42
Section 42-31 The Faculty Councils

A. As the principal advisory bodies to the Senate there shall be the following faculty councils:

1. The Faculty Council on Academic Standards;
2. The Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs;
3. The Faculty Council on Research;
4. The Faculty Council on Student Affairs;
5. The Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services;
6. The Faculty Council on University Libraries;
7. The Faculty Council on Benefits and Retirement;
8. The Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy;
9. The Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs;
10. The Faculty Council on Women in Academia;
11. The Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning;
12. The Faculty Council on Information Technology and Cybersecurity

B. Faculty councils may be abolished and created only by amendment to the Faculty Code.

C. Faculty councils are responsible to the Executive Committee of the Senate.


Section 42-32 Appointment of Faculty Councils

A. Because the faculty councils will be concerned with broad problems of policy relating to matters of University government, the basic qualifications of appointees should include a broad familiarity with the problems of University government, an understanding of the particular problems of the faculty within the framework of the University, and a familiarity with the substance of the particular areas of council responsibility.

B. The Executive Committee shall nominate and the Senate shall approve the appointment of the chairs and members of faculty councils.

The Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy shall consist of two members from the University of Washington, Seattle; two members, designated by the General Faculty Organization, from the University of Washington, Bothell; two members, designated by the Faculty Assembly, from the University of Washington, Tacoma; and as ex officio with vote: the Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate, the Vice Chair of the General Faculty Organization, and the Vice Chair of the Faculty Assembly; and as ex officio without vote: the Faculty Legislative Representative and the Deputy Legislative Representative.

C. At the beginning of each academic year the roster of each faculty council shall be published in the Class C Bulletin. Subsequent changes during the academic year shall also be published in the Class C Bulletin.

D. The Executive Committee may determine the size of faculty councils from year to year, provided only that it make every effort to confine the size of each council to the size required for the effective discharge of its responsibilities. The Executive committee will also make every effort to include at least one member representing the University of Washington Bothell and the University of Washington Tacoma on all the councils.
E. Council members shall serve three-year terms and may be appointed to serve a second consecutive term. Appointments become effective at the beginning of the academic year. When an appointment is made to fill a position vacated during the academic year, the appointment shall be made as specified in Chapter 41, Section 41-33.

F. Faculty council members shall be deemed to have vacated their seats when they have been absent from three council meetings in an academic year. Council members are considered absent only if they fail, prior to a meeting, to inform the chair of the faculty council or the faculty council analyst of their inability to attend.


Section 42-33 Duties, Responsibilities and Powers of Faculty Councils

A. Faculty councils serve as deliberative and advisory bodies for all matters of University policy, and are primary forums for faculty-administrative interaction in determining that policy. Each faculty council within the area of its jurisdiction:

1. Shall prepare for submission to the Senate through the Executive Committee all legislative proposals pertaining to matters set forth in Chapter 22, Section 22-32, Subsection A;

2. Shall prepare for submission to the Senate through the Executive Committee any resolution passed at a faculty meeting falling under Chapter 21, Section 21-51, Subsection D;

3. May on its own initiative prepare legislative proposals or resolutions for submission through the Executive Committee to the Senate;

4. Shall submit to the Senate Chair any report, including annual reports, for transmission to the Senate through the Executive Committee;

5. May receive and make appropriate recommendations, within the limits set forth in Chapter 22, Section 22-32, Subsection B, concerning any communication from a member of the faculty;

6. May request such information and assistance as may be required in the effective pursuit of its duties;

7. May appoint, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, such ad hoc committees as may be required for the effective pursuit of its work;

8. Shall be responsible for providing information and for interpreting or obtaining interpretation of policy regarding matters falling under its jurisdiction;

9. Shall receive reports or recommendations or resolutions from administrative or presidential committees in areas for which it is responsible, and, when appropriate, shall be invited to be represented on those committees.

B. The Senate Chair, after consultation with the Executive Committee, shall decide which faculty council shall assume jurisdiction when jurisdictional responsibility may be unclear and shall arrange for coordination among councils in the event that a matter may fall within the responsibility of more than one council.

S-A 29, June 8, 1964; S-A 43, November 14, 1972; S-A 67, December 5, 1983: all with Presidential approval.

Section 42-34 Faculty Council on Academic Standards
The Faculty Council on Academic Standards shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for matters of University policy relating to the academic affairs of the University, such as admissions policy, scholastic standards, university graduation requirements, and inter-institutional academic standards.

S-A 29, June 8, 1964; Senate Executive Committee action, November 30, 1964; S-A 50, January 22, 1976; S-A 73, May 24, 1985: all with Presidential approval.

Section 42-36 Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs

The Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for all matters of policy relating to the interests of the faculty, such as appointment, tenure, promotion, professional leave, compensation (including salary and fringe benefits), academic freedom, standards of academic performance, and professional ethics.

S-A 29, June 8, 1964: with Presidential approval.

Section 42-37 Faculty Council on Research

The Faculty Council on Research shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for all matters of policy relating to research and scholarship.


Section 42-38 Faculty Council on Student Affairs

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for all matters of policy relating to non-academic student affairs such as financial aid, housing, regulation of social affairs, eligibility rules, intercollegiate athletics, and general student welfare.

S-A 29, June 8, 1964 with Presidential approval.

Section 42-39 Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services

The Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for all matters of policy relating to University facilities and services such as building needs, space utilization, supplies and equipment, administrative services, and parking and traffic problems.

S-A 29, June 8, 1964 with Presidential approval.

Section 42-41 Faculty Council on University Libraries

The Faculty Council on University Libraries shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for all matters of policy relating to libraries such as, but not limited to, collection development; services to students, faculty, and others; the system of libraries, including branch libraries; space needs; and budgetary requirements.

S-A 50, January 22, 1976 with Presidential approval.

Section 42-44 Faculty Council on Benefits and Retirement

The Faculty Council on Benefits and Retirement shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for all matters of policy relating to faculty retirement, insurance and benefits.

S-A 89, April 8, 1994 with Presidential approval.

Section 42-46 Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy
The Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy shall be responsible for matters of academic and non-academic policy between and among the campuses of the University of Washington.

S-A 104, April 9, 2001 with Presidential approval.

Section 42-47 Faculty Council on Women in Academia

The Faculty Council on Women in Academia shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for all matters of policy relating to the interests of women.


Section 42-48 Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs

The Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for all matters of policy relating to the interests of faculty of color.


Section 42-49 Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning

The Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for all matters of policy, both academic and non-academic, relating to improvement of teaching and learning in the University; including distance learning, continuing education, and Summer Quarter, and the use of educational technology in instruction.


Section 42-50 Faculty Council on Information Technology and Cybersecurity

The Faculty Council on Information Technology and Cybersecurity shall be responsible (as described in Section 42-33) for all matters of policy relating to Information Technology and Cybersecurity such as technology used for teaching and learning; videoconferencing; technology relating to hiring, merit, and promotion; collection and use of data; and research.

Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
March 29, 2021

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
April 15, 2021

Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
May 3, 2021

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
May 13, 2021