

Governance Council Meeting

Wednesday December 8th, 2021 2:30-4:30pm

Via [Zoom](#); Meeting ID: 846 6581 7189 | Passcode: 672204

Dial-in Number: +16468769923

Chair: Glen Johnson

AGENDA

I. Call to Order, Votes & Election

- 2:30-2:45 Glen Johnson (Governance Council Chair), Approval of the October, 2021 minutes
Votes on Proposed Bylaw Amendments:
- PhD program representatives (Appendix 1)
 - Academic Appeals Committee (Appendix 2)

II. Dean's Report

- 2:45-3:00 Ayman El-Mohandes (CUNY SPH Dean)

III. Committee Matters

- 3:00-3:10 Ghada Soliman (Admissions Committee Chair)
3:10-3:20 Sean Haley (Curriculum Committee Chair)

IV. Associate Deans' Reports

- 3:20-3:30 Susan Klitzman (Senior Associate Dean of Administration)
3:30-3:40 Ashish Joshi (Senior Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs)

V. Other Business

- 3:40-3:55 Himani Sharma (Committee for Equity and Inclusion Co-Chair)

VI. Adjourn Meeting

- 3:55 Glen Johnson (Governance Council Chair)

Remaining Governance Council Meeting Dates 2021-2022 Academic Year

2/23/22 2:30pm - 4:30pm
3/30/22 2:30pm - 4:30pm
5/11/22 2:30pm - 4:30pm

Remaining Governance Council Steering Committee Calls 2021-2022 Academic Year

2/8/22 9:30am - 10:30am
3/15/22 9:30am - 10:30am
4/26/22 9:30am - 10:30am

Appendix 1.

Discussion on CUNY SPH By-Laws: Article V, Sections 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2

Curriculum, Assessment and Admissions Committee Composition: “...one faculty representative teaching in any of the PhD programs in any concentration” shall be a voting member of the committee. “The doctoral program directors shall designate one teaching faculty member to serve on the (Curriculum, Assessment, Admissions) committee.”

PROS

- This position represents the 7th voting member of each of these committees, thus providing a tie-breaking vote.
- This position was intended by the members of the Task Force to advocate for and promote the interests of the doctoral programs and the doctoral students, which may not otherwise be explicitly represented by the standing committees. For example, in terms of the Assessment Committee, there has not been a survey that focused only on doctoral students’ opinions, experiences, etc.
- This position increases participation and deepens governance within the faculty.
- The position should not be collapsed into one position (e.g. departmental representative who is also teaches in the PhD program), as it dilutes voting power.

CONS

- The interests of the doctoral programs and doctoral students can be adequately represented by the existing departmental faculty and other representatives of these committees.
- This position is redundant, as the committees already have elected representatives from the each of the departments whose faculty teach in the PhD programs
- The PhD programs are not distinct from the departments so it does not make sense to have stand-alone PhD representation.
- Given the size of the full-time faculty and the number of committees, the extra three positions puts an unnecessary burden on the faculty who are already serving on other departmental, school-wide and other committees.
- The intended objective could be achieved by making the expectation that departmental representatives are responsible for representing all programs within their department more explicit, and hold them accountable for doing so (see below), without adding another member to each of the three committees. Simply adding another body, alone, does not automatically assure that doctoral students and program interests will be well represented.
- The rationale to have a 7th (odd # of) member(s) on the three standing committees to avoid a tie may be more theoretical than practical. Historically, governance decisions at SPH have been largely made by consensus. In cases where there have been hotly contested opinions and evenly or near-evenly divided votes, the governing body has sought to better understand the “minority” viewpoint, and to seek consensus, rather than abide by simple majority rule

Proposed Vote for the Governance Council

Vote 1:

- a. Do not change anything and proceed with completing these committee memberships with PhD program representatives, as required by the current By-Laws, or
- b. Change this requirement to enable one of the options in Vote 2.

Vote 2:

Change the current language to either eliminate the requirement for a PhD program representative, accepting an even number of voting members (option a) or replace the PhD program representative with an at-large faculty member to be elected by the voting faculty of the Governance Council (option b).

Current Language:

Section 3. Curriculum Committee

Composition: The Curriculum Committee shall be composed of seven voting members, as follows: one faculty member from each department, one faculty representative teaching in any of the PhD programs in any concentration, one administrative staff member, and one student member of the Governance Council nominated by the elected student members with final approval by the Dean. The Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and/or their designee shall serve on this committee as ex-officio non-voting members.

- 3.1 Selection: Each department shall elect one faculty member to serve on the Curriculum Committee. The doctoral program directors shall designate the teaching faculty member to serve on the Curriculum Committee.

Section 4. Assessment Committee

- 4.1 Composition: The Assessment Committee shall be composed of seven voting members, as follows: at least one faculty member from each Department, one faculty representative teaching in any of the PhD programs in any concentration, one administrative staff member, and one student member of the Governance Council nominated by the elected student members with final approval by the Dean. The Senior Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs and/or Director of Academic Affairs shall serve on this committee as ex-officio non-voting members.
- 4.2 Selection: Each department shall elect one faculty member to serve on the Assessment Committee. The doctoral program directors shall designate one teaching faculty member to serve on the Assessment Committee.

Section 5. Admissions Committee

- 5.1 Composition: The Admissions Committee shall be composed of at least one faculty member from each Department, one faculty representative teaching in any of the PhD programs in any concentration, and two administrative staff members, as designated by the Dean, and as described in Article III, Section 7. of the Governance Plan. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Alumni Relations (or equivalent) and the Director of Admissions shall serve on this committee as ex-officio non-voting members.
- 5.2 Selection: Each department shall elect a faculty member to serve on the Admissions

Committee. The doctoral program directors shall designate a faculty member teaching in any PhD program to serve on the Admissions Committee.

New language under option a: “Eliminate the requirement for a PhD program representative, accepting an even number of voting members”

Section 3. Curriculum Committee

Composition: The Curriculum Committee shall be composed of six voting members, as follows: one faculty member from each department, one administrative staff member, and one student member of the Governance Council nominated by the elected student members with final approval by the Dean. The Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and/or their designee shall serve on this committee as ex-officio non-voting members.

- 3.1 Selection: Each department shall elect one faculty member to serve on the Curriculum Committee.

Section 4. Assessment Committee

- 4.1 Composition: The Assessment Committee shall be composed of six voting members, as follows: at least one faculty member from each department, one administrative staff member, and one student member of the Governance Council nominated by the elected student members with final approval by the Dean. The Senior Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs and/or Director of Academic Affairs shall serve on this committee as ex-officio non-voting members.

- 4.2 Selection: Each department shall elect one faculty member to serve on the Assessment Committee.

Section 5. Admissions Committee

- 5.1 Composition: The Admissions Committee shall be composed of at least one faculty member from each department and two administrative staff members, as designated by the Dean, and as described in Article III, Section 7. of the Governance Plan. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Alumni Relations (or equivalent) and the Director of Admissions shall serve on this committee as ex-officio non-voting members.

- 5.2 Selection: Each department shall elect a faculty member to serve on the Admissions Committee.

New language under option b: “Replace the PhD program representative with an at-large faculty member to be elected by the voting faculty of the Governance Council”

Section 3. Curriculum Committee

Composition: The Curriculum Committee shall be composed of six voting members and one at-large faculty member, as follows: one faculty member from each department, one administrative staff member and one student member of the Governance Council nominated by the elected student members with final approval by the Dean. The Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and/or their designee shall serve on this committee as ex-officio non-voting members.

- 3.1 Selection: Each department shall elect one faculty member to serve on the Curriculum

Committee. The governance council shall elect one at-large faculty member to serve on the Curriculum Committee as needed.

Section 4. Assessment Committee

- 4.1 Composition: The Assessment Committee shall be composed of six voting members and one at-large faculty member, as follows: at least one faculty member from each department, one administrative staff member and one student member of the Governance Council nominated by the elected student members with final approval by the Dean. The Senior Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs and/or Director of Academic Affairs shall serve on this committee as ex-officio non-voting members.
- 4.2 Selection: Each department shall elect one faculty member to serve on the Assessment Committee. The governance council shall elect one at-large faculty member to serve on the Curriculum Committee as needed.

Section 5. Admissions Committee

- 5.1 Composition: The Admissions Committee shall be composed of at least one faculty member from each department and two administrative staff members, as designated by the Dean, and as described in Article III, Section 7. of the Governance Plan. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Alumni Relations (or equivalent) and the Director of Admissions shall serve on this committee as ex-officio non-voting members.
- 5.2 Selection: Each department shall elect a faculty member to serve on the Admissions Committee. The governance council shall elect one at-large faculty member to serve on the Curriculum Committee as needed.

Appendix 2.

X.1. Composition: The Academic Appeals Committee shall be composed of four voting members, as follows: one faculty member from each Department, for three-year renewable terms selected as described in Article III, Section 7. of the Governance Plan. The Director of Academic Affairs shall serve on this committee as AN ex-officio non-voting member

X.2. Selection: Each department shall elect one faculty member to serve on the Academic Appeals Committee.

X.3. The voting members of the Academic Appeals Committee shall elect one faculty member of the Committee to serve as chair, who shall serve a three-year renewable term.

X.4. The Academic Appeals Committee may invite feedback as needed to gather evidence related to specific appeals.

4.5. Duties: The Academic Appeals Committee shall hear cases of student academic appeals, including grade appeals (excluding certain matters related to academic integrity) and program dismissal, gather additional evidence when needed, and render a final decision on the appeal. Such duties shall not be in conflict with the duties of the Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee, a separate body, established under Section 15 of the CUNY Board of Trustees bylaws. The committee shall develop written procedures that support student academic appeals process as needed, to supplement the CUNY academic integrity policy. The committee shall submit a written report of the matters within its jurisdiction to the Governance Council once per semester, provided there are pending or adjudicated cases in that semester.

This amendment is proposed by: Glen Johnson, Sergio Costa, Nevin Cohen, Elizabeth Kelvin and Ilias Kavouras