

As part of an overall strategy to update the School of Liberal Arts Bylaws to reflect the changing landscape of the School as well as to economize faculty participation in School committees, the ad-hoc Bylaws Review Committee recommends the following action item for consideration by the Faculty:

A reduction in the regular membership of standing appointed committees.

Current situation:

Most appointed standing committees within the School of Liberal Arts include five faculty members, the exceptions being the Library Committee and Technology Committee. In addition, membership in most includes an Agenda Council representative and various non-voting members.

Proposal:

Unless otherwise indicated in the individual committee description, appointed standing committees will consist of **four** faculty members appointed by the Agenda Council, along with other members as stated in the SLA Bylaws.

Rationale:

Faculty governance has become more complex in recent years, and the number of faculty required to serve on committees has grown since the adoption of the SLA Faculty Assembly Bylaws in the last century. However, the number of full-time faculty in the School of Liberal Arts is now decreasing significantly, and more departures are expected in the coming years. The reality is that there are fewer faculty members who are willing and available to serve on School committees. Therefore, reducing committee size for appointed committees seems a wise move to reduce the demand for faculty to fulfill their service obligations.

Known and expected benefits:

- *Increased efficiency of committee work.* With fewer members on each committee, the scheduling of meetings and communications between members may be facilitated and simplified.
- *Improved response time.* In regular circumstances, smaller committees tend to be more agile and nimble in their ability to carry out their assigned tasks. In emergency or time-sensitive situations, smaller committees may respond more rapidly, and take necessary action in an expedited fashion.
- *Reduced voting difficulties.* The “4+1” standard for most committees (four regular members plus the Agenda Council Representative) will eliminate tie votes.
- *Enhanced options for committee assignments.* Current and future changes in the total number of standing committees will increase the number of faculty who must step forward to serve. By reducing the number of required faculty members on most committees, increased choices for appointments will facilitate the Agenda Council’s task of assignments.