

**Annual Report of the
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENT
For Presentation to the Faculty Council on
January 11, 2013**

Current Members:

Bruce Cairns, School of Medicine (2015)
Jo Anne Earp, Health Policy and Management (2014)
Connie Eble, English (2013)
Joseph Ferrell, Secretary of the Faculty (ex officio)
Elizabeth Gibson, School of Law (2015)
Clayton Koelb, Germanic Languages (2015)
Michael Lienesch, Political Science (2014)
Vincas Steponaitis, Anthropology (2013), chair

Annual Report prepared by: Vincas Steponaitis, chair. This report covers the period from February 2012 through December 2012.

Committee Charge. The Faculty Code of University Government reads as follows:

“§ 4-19. Faculty Committee on University Government.

“(a) The Faculty Committee on University Government consists of seven members appointed by the chancellor. The secretary of the faculty serves as an ex officio member.

“(b) The committee is concerned with the continuing development, adaptation, and interpretation of The Faculty Code of University Government. Subject to the powers of the University’s Board of Governors and president, and of the Board of Trustees and the chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Code represents legislation enacted by the faculty regarding forms of internal organization and procedures at this institution which are deemed necessary for its fair and effective operation.

“(c) The committee periodically reviews the existing Code and solicits suggestions for its improvement. Based on its review, the committee recommends appropriate amendments in the Code for consideration and vote of the General Faculty. As provided under Article I of the Code, the committee considers and reports on other proposals to amend the Code and also periodically makes appropriate adjustments of the elective representatives in the Faculty Council. The committee considers and reports on special questions of University governance which are referred to it by the chancellor or members of the faculty. The committee is especially concerned with maintaining internal forms and procedures of academic administration which reflect principles of democracy and equity, vision and adaptability, and quality and responsibility, toward achieving the intellectual aims of the University.”

Report of Activities.

Resolutions Presented and Adopted. On March 16, 2012, the committee presented to Faculty Council two resolutions:

- * On Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Update the Charge of the Administrative Board of the Library (Resolution 2012-2), and
- * Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Provide for the Removal of Committee Members Who Are Repeatedly Absent Without Cause (Resolution 2012-3).

Both resolutions passed on the first reading, and were adopted by Faculty Council without dissent at its subsequent meeting on April 13, 2012.

Ongoing. Over the past year the Committee continued the discussions that had begun in 2012 on updating the Code to better reflect the current functions of the divisions and divisional officers in the College of Arts and Sciences. These discussions culminated in Resolution 2013-2, which is further described in Appendix 1.

The committee also noted that the Faculty Code is ambiguous on whether to allow someone who was appointed to fill an interim vacancy on an elective committee to serve two full terms in addition to the partial one. An amendment that clarifies this provision is presented in Resolution 2013-3 and briefly explained in Appendix 2.

New Business.

Resolutions Presented. The committee presents today the following resolutions:

Resolution 2013-2. On Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Change the Functions of Divisions and Divisional Officers in the College of Arts and Sciences, and to Update the Composition of the Divisions.

Resolution 2013-3. On Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Clarify Term Limits for Elective Committees.

The rationale for each of these resolutions is provided in the appendices that follow.

Respectfully submitted,
Committee on University Government

Appendix 1

Report of the Committee on University Government on Resolution 2013-2.

The College of Arts and Sciences has long classified its faculty into four divisions: (1) Fine Arts, (2) Humanities, (3) Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and (4) Social Sciences. Once upon a time, the faculty in each of these divisions met separately to set policy and approve curricular changes. Each division had an elected chair who presided over these meetings, and, as a secondary duty, served ex-officio on the Arts and Sciences Advisory Committee (ASAC) which advised the dean in personnel matters. Each division also had an elected vice-chair, who took primary responsibility for curricular matters within the division. The procedures of divisional governance have long been spelled out in Article 8 of the Code, and are further elaborated in four sets of divisional bylaws, one for each division, that are chartered by Article 8.

For better or worse, the divisional faculties have not met in more than two decades, and we see no indication that such meetings are likely to happen on a regular basis in the future. Divisional chairs and vice-chairs are still elected, but *de facto* their duties have changed. Currently, the only function of the divisional chairs is to serve on ASAC, and the vice-chairs discharge their duties by serving on a College-wide curriculum committee. The processes of divisional governance described in Article 8 no longer exist in the same form. Hence, our goal in presenting this resolution is to bring the Code in line with current practice.

If passed, the resolution would amend Article 8 in the following ways:

- * The list of units comprising each division is updated to reflect the departments and curricula in the College as of July 1, 2013, and a mechanism is provided for the Committee on University Government to continue updating the list, as units and unit names change in the future, without having to bring such matters to Faculty Council for a vote (see the new § 8-1[b]).
- * The office of “divisional chair” is abolished. Instead, divisional representatives are elected directly to serve on ASAC.
- * Divisional faculties are no longer required to have bylaws or to meet regularly. Divisions may still call special meetings, if necessary, at which the division’s ASAC representative serves as presiding officer.
- * The dean of Arts and Sciences is required to insure that each divisional faculty is represented on standing committees that deal with curricular matters, a practice which is normally followed in the College anyway and obviates the need for divisional vice-chairs.

Note that Section 2 of the resolution suspends the current divisional bylaws, which spell out the processes of governance in each division (including the election of chairs and vice-chairs). Most of these processes have not operated for more than 20 years, and those that still operate are brought into the Code by the amendments described above. Thus, if the Code amendments are enacted, then the current divisional bylaws become moot, and Section 2 simply clarifies that these bylaws are no longer in effect.

In the process of formulating this resolution, the Committee on University Government consulted with many individuals, including the Dean of Arts and Sciences, the Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Curricula, the Administrative Boards of the College and General College, the College's Council of Chairs, all of the current divisional chairs, and most of the current vice-chairs. The proposed language represents a consensus of all the opinions we gathered.

The Committee on University Government therefore strongly recommends that Faculty Council adopt Resolution 2013-2.

Appendix 2

Report of the Committee on University Government on Resolution 2013-3.

The Committee on University Government recently noticed an ambiguity in the Faculty Code of University Government: Section 4-1(a), which stipulates a two-term limit for elected committee members, is silent on the question of whether a partial term counts against this limit. Such partial terms often happen when someone steps in to fill a partially completed term that an incumbent cannot finish.

The proposed amendment resolves this ambiguity by stating that partial terms of less than two years do not count against the limit. A normal term for an elected committee member is three years.

The Committee on University Government also strongly endorses Resolution 2013-3 and recommends that Faculty Council adopt it.

Resolution 2013-2. On Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Change the Functions of Divisions and Divisional Officers in the College of Arts and Sciences, and to Update the Composition of the Divisions.

The General Faculty enacts that:

Section 1. Article 8 of the Faculty Code of University Government is amended as follows (deletions are crossed out, additions are underlined):

§ 8-1. Divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences.

(a) The College of Arts and Sciences is organized into the Divisions of Fine Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Social Sciences. These Divisions comprise the departments and curricula listed below:

1. *Fine Arts:* Art;~~;~~; Dramatic Art;~~;~~; and Music;~~;~~;

2. *Humanities:* American Studies;~~;~~; Classics;~~;~~; Communication Studies;~~;~~; English and Comparative Literature;~~;~~; Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures;~~;~~; Linguistics;~~;~~; Philosophy;~~;~~; Religious Studies;~~;~~; Romance Languages and Literatures;~~;~~; and Women's and Gender Studies.

3. *Natural Sciences and Mathematics:* Applied ~~and Materials~~Physical Sciences;~~;~~; Biology;~~;~~; Biomedical Engineering;~~;~~; Chemistry;~~;~~; Computer Science;~~;~~; Environment and Ecology;~~;~~; Exercise and Sport Science;~~;~~; Geological Sciences;~~;~~; Marine Sciences;~~;~~; Mathematics;~~;~~; Physics and Astronomy;~~;~~; Psychology;~~;~~; and Statistics and Operations Research,~~;~~;~~and~~;

4. *Social Sciences:* Aerospace Studies;~~;~~; African, ~~and Afro-American~~African-American, and Diaspora Studies;~~;~~; Anthropology;~~;~~; Archaeology;~~;~~; Asian Studies;~~;~~; City and Regional Planning;~~;~~; Contemporary European Studies;~~;~~; Economics;~~;~~; Geography;~~;~~; History;~~;~~; Global Studies;~~;~~; Latin American Studies;~~;~~; Military Science;~~;~~; Naval Science;~~;~~; Peace, War, and Defense;~~;~~; Political Science;~~;~~; Public Policy;~~;~~; and Sociology.

(b) The secretary of the faculty assigns to the appropriate division any department or curriculum not specified ~~above~~ in subsection (a).

(c) The Committee on University Government, with the approval of the chancellor, may adjust the assignment of departments and other units in subsection (a) whenever required by changes in the organization of the College.

~~(b) Members of departmental faculties have voting privileges in only one division, but may have advisory privileges in other divisions in which their departments have special interests. Thus, those from Art, Dramatic Art, History, and Music have advisory privileges in the Humanities; those from Philosophy in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Social Sciences; and those from Psychology in the Social Sciences.~~

~~(c) Faculty members who have no departmental affiliation have voting privileges in the division to which they have been assigned by the secretary of the faculty.~~

(d) For the purposes of elections stipulated in § 8-3, members of departmental faculties have voting privileges only in the division of their primary appointment. Faculty members who have no departmental affiliation have electoral voting privileges in the division to which they are assigned by the secretary of the faculty.

(e) For the purposes of § 8-4, members of the voting faculty with multiple appointments may participate in more than one divisional faculty, in accordance with their appointments.

§ 8-2. Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences. All members of the General Faculty holding primary appointments in departments and curricula within the College of Arts and Sciences are members of the Arts and Sciences Faculty.

§ 8-3. Arts and Sciences Advisory Committee.

(a) The Arts and Sciences Advisory Committee consists of ~~the chairs~~ four members of the Arts and Sciences Faculty holding the rank of professor, one elected by each of the divisions specified in § 8-1, ~~above.~~ from among its members. The term is three years, and members may not be elected to more than two consecutive terms. Sitting department chairs may not serve on this committee. The dean of the College of Arts and Sciences consults the committee on:

1. Appointments, reappointments, and promotions that have the effect of conferring permanent tenure;
2. Promotions to a higher rank of persons holding permanent tenure at the rank of associate professor or assistant professor; and
3. Appointments to distinguished professorships.

(b) Interim vacancies are filled by the secretary of the faculty from the list of those voted on in the two most recent elections in the order of the highest number of votes received unless all such persons decline appointment or are ineligible, or there is an insufficient number, in which case the vacancy is filled by the secretary in consultation with the chairs of the units that comprise the division.

§ 8-4. Divisional faculties.

(a) The faculty of each Arts and Sciences Division is composed of the voting faculty members of its component departments and curricula. ~~Each Division has a chair and such other officers as its by-laws specify. The chair and other officers are elected by members of the voting faculty holding primary appointments in departments and curricula assigned to the Division. Each Division, in consultation with the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, adopts appropriate rules and regulations governing its functions and procedures, including procedures for electing its officers.~~

~~(b) Each division, in cooperation with the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, concerns itself with the instructional programs of the units within its division:~~

(b) A meeting of any divisional faculty to discuss matters pertaining to the division may be called by the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and must be called upon the written request of ten percent of the divisional faculty or three department or curriculum chairs in that division, except for the Division of Fine Arts, in which a written request from only two chairs is required. The division's representative on the Arts and Sciences Advisory Committee serves as the presiding officer; in the absence of this representative, a presiding officer is chosen by the dean.

(c) A quorum is conclusively presumed at any meeting of a divisional faculty called on at least ten days' written notice. Otherwise, the presence of 20% of the division's voting members is necessary for a quorum.

(d) The dean of the College of Arts and Sciences shall insure that each divisional faculty is represented on the Administrative Boards of the College and General College, and on any other standing committees that deal with the instructional programs of the College or General College.

Section 2. The bylaws of the Division of Fine Arts, the Division of Humanities, the Division of the Basic and Applied Natural Sciences, and the Division of the Social Sciences, as constituted under the prior provisions of Article 8, are hereby suspended. Nothing in this resolution prevents the College divisions from creating new bylaws in the future, should the need arise.

Resolution 2013-3. On Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Clarify Term Limits for Elective Committees.

The General Faculty enacts that

§ 4-1(a) of the Faculty Code of University Government is amended as follows (deletions are crossed out, additions are underlined):

§ 4-1. Organizational principles.

(a) Standing committees of the faculty are organized as nearly as practicable in accordance with the following principles:

- 1) unless otherwise specified in this Article, a committee consists of no more than seven members;
- 2) unless otherwise specified in this Article, members serve for staggered terms of three years;
- 3) no person may serve more than two consecutive terms on one elective committee, except when the first term fills an interim vacancy pursuant to § 4-3(d) for less than two years, in which case a third consecutive term is allowed;
- 4) elective committees select their own chairs, and appointing officers designate the chairs of committees they appoint;
- 5) necessary aid and assistance is provided to expedite the work of the committees of the faculty;
- 6) service on all standing committees begins on July 1 following election or appointment and end on June 30 of the appropriate year;
- 7) standing committees report to the Faculty Council on their activities at least once each academic year unless the chair of the faculty authorizes the postponement of a committee's annual report.