

NEW FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Faculty Senate has recently voted to streamline its committee system. Many faculty members have asked for a compact guide to the changes that have been implemented in accordance with Senate Resolution 07-09. The following offers a summary of the recent adjustments in the committees that carry out the work of faculty governance.

COMMITTEES TO REMAIN IN THEIR PRESENT CONFIGURATION:

Admissions, Standards, and Honors
Budget and Planning Committee
Committee on Committees
Courses and Curricula Committee
Faculty Grievance Committee
General Education Committee
International Education Committee
LSU Press Committee

Rationale for maintaining these committees in their present configuration: These committees deal with the core concerns of academic life. Making recommendations concerning the division of resources and responsibilities among colleges and programs, these committees acquire enhanced legitimacy when they include representatives from across the University.

COMMITTEES TO BE REDUCED IN SIZE:

Commencement Exercises Committee
Educational Policy Committee
Student Aid and Scholarships Appeals Committee
Library Committee

Rationale for reducing the number of members for these committees: Although these committees make important and sometimes controversial decisions, their actions are of a more administrative than policy-setting character. In recent years, these committees have often had trouble achieving a quorum for their meetings.

COMMITTEES TO BE STAFFED ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS:

Benefits and Advisory Committee
Faculty Personnel Policies Committee
Council of Policy Committees

Rationale for staffing these committees only when needed: While it is important for the faculty to supervise the jurisdictions of these committees, it is also the case that those jurisdictions have become highly professionalized and that, in recent times, urgent business in these areas has been handled either by the Executive Committee or by ad hoc committees.

COMMITTEES TO BE ELIMINATED:

Communications and Development Committee
Improvement of Instruction Committee
Information Technology and Services Committee

Rationale for elimination of these committees: The mandate of the Communications and Development Committee is mixed and unclear, with the result that it has not met for some years and with the consequence that its occasional tasks have been performed by ad hoc committees; the Council of Policy Committees has not met for several years and is redundant with respect to the Executive Committee; with the founding of CELT and other pedagogical enhancement centers, the Improvement of Instruction Committee has accomplished most of its purpose and would only become necessary in an emergency, which, in any case, would require the intervention of the Executive Committee; the Information Technology and Services Committee has been made redundant by other IT-related ad hoc committees which have been more able to respond quickly to fast-paced IT developments.