

Committee on Committees

Five Year Review

May 2019

The CoC conducted a self reflection of our duties. We asked ourselves the following questions and answered these questions as a committee.

1. Do the Standing Rules clearly reflect the function & composition of this committee?

- **CoC Standing Rules (for reference):** The Committee on Committees maintains a continuing study of the structure and effectiveness of University councils and committees and of their relationship to responsibilities of the Faculty Senate; proposes and reviews proposals for new Senate standing committees; and makes recommendations on committee reorganization and functions to appropriate Senate and University officers.

The Chair of each Committee/Council of the Faculty Senate shall, at five-year intervals, report to the Committee on Committees about its activities. This report must demonstrate activities which have enhanced the functions and objectives of the Senate. When no clearly useful functions can be identified, the abolishment of the Committee/Council shall be recommended. The CoC is composed of six Faculty and the ASOSU Executive Director of Operations.

- **CoC Response:** The standing rules reflect the intended function, but it is sometimes challenging for the committee to contribute in a meaningful way. To our knowledge, ~~only~~ reports ~~have been~~ submitted in the past to the CoC ~~historically~~, have provided ~~with~~ limited recommendations, and we are unaware of actions resulting from the suggestions in annual reports or reviews.

Tracking of reviews have not always been completed or made it to the Faculty Senate office level and so the five-year cycle tends to fall behind. Senate Committees are sometimes too busy to submit their five-year reports.

See question below regarding student member. We currently have three faculty members and an EC liaison and so are not currently operating at the full slate of six.

- **CoC Recommendation:** 1) Reduce the number of required committee members and increase duration of service by committee members to promote confidence in making recommendations to EC. 2) Ask the EC to help CoC in obtaining the five year committee reports from Senate Committees on time to facilitate timely review. This will enable CoC to make timely recommendations to the EC and help us help update and keep current the structure of Faculty Senate Committees and their functions.
2. Have the CoC's actions/function, as reported in the annual reports and based on consultation with the current chair and committee, been consistent with their Standing Rules?
- **CoC Response:** Yes, the annual reports are consistent with the standing rules. The committee has the opportunity to take a more active role in advising EC, though. In reviewing annual reports available, we do not see where action has been taken on suggestions/observations.
 - **CoC Recommendation:** The EC should provide the CoC with a response to suggestions/observations provided by the CoC to the EC to help us maintain our records, and have continuity in our future recommendations to the EC.

3. Do the CoC annual reports provide a memory of the issues this committee addressed, their activities and any outcomes?
 - **CoC Response:** Yes.
4. What has been the role/benefit of the student members?
 - **CoC Response:** It has been several years since the student position was filled. The title of "ASOSU Executive Director of Operations" looks to be no longer be valid. The Faculty Senate web page lists the student title as "ASOSU Director of Committees" which is also no longer listed as a position on the ASOSU web site.
 - **CoC Recommendation:** We recommend rewording the standing rules to make the student position more generic, and not subject to title changes within ASOSU. We also recommend that the chair of CoC be tasked with working with ASOSU to identify the student member of the committee, as opposed to leaving this responsibility to the Faculty Senate office.
5. What connection is there to the University's strategic plan? How does the committee add value to the University?
 - **CoC Response:** We should be helping to reduce inefficiencies and increase accountability. We believe that we have this potential.
6. If the Chair of CoC believes the committee does not add value, please explain and address the question as to whether the committee should continue to exist.
 - **CoC Response and Recommendation:** If the EC is unable to use the annual reports to improve the effectiveness of committees, perhaps the task of review should be handled in another way. The committee is open to the idea of reorganization to help accomplish this goal.
7. Does this committee's work enhance OSU's commitment to diversity? If so, how?
 - **CoC Response:** We are unbiased in our approach. We work to help other committees fulfill the requirement of completing the five-year review process.