

Five-Year Review
Committee on Committees
Faculty Senate Committee on Committees
May 2005

Standing Rules

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 Committee is composed of six Faculty and the ASOSU Executive Director of Committees.

1. Do the Standing Rules clearly reflect the function and composition of this Committee?

The standing rules clearly state the composition of the committee, six faculty and the ASOSU Executive Director of Committees.

The function of the committee is not as clearly defined. The question is how does one maintain a continuing study of the structure and effectiveness of University councils and committees and of their relationship to responsibilities of the Faculty Senate?

The Committee's standing rules state the Committee on Committees proposes and reviews proposals for new Senate standing committees, and makes recommendations on committee reorganization and functions to appropriate Senate and University officers.

Currently, the Committee on Committees reviews the standing rules and functions of 5 standing committees each year. The review is based on annual reports and minutes of the committee as well as conversation with the current and sometimes past committee chair as to the adherence of the committee function to the standing rules. While this provides a periodic review (roughly every 5 years) of each committee, it does not necessarily result in a coordinated review of the relationship of one committee to another. Some committees fail to post an annual report of committee work, and many lack meeting minutes. The C on C does review proposed changes to the standing rules of other committees.

In order to effectively perform the work suggested by the standing rules Committee members should have an orientation to the entire Faculty Senate structure and the purpose and relationship of each of the committees that they are charged to review. This is necessary because committee members do not necessarily have prior knowledge or experience of the Faculty Senate operation.

A review of committee reports this year, suggests that the structure and composition of the committee system may be larger than necessary due to changes in the structure and the lack of annual report information and minutes. Perhaps there should be guidelines for how many annual reports can be missed before the committee is removed from the roster. Also, each committee should be required to submit, at least, the minutes for one meeting each year.

2. Have the Committee's actions/functions, as reported in the annual reports and by consulting with the current Chair and Committee, been consistent with their Standing Rules?

The way the standing rules are written the answer to this question is yes.

3. Do the annual reports provide a memory of the issues this Committee addressed, their activities, and any outcomes?

The annual reports document the committees reviewed each year. The reports also list any changes suggested by the Committee on Committees, the membership of the committee and any other activities for the year.

4. What has been the role/benefit of the student members?

It is difficult to evaluate the role/benefit of the student members. The student member of the committee has not been active in the last few years. Although some have been initially enthusiastic, they do not participate in email discussions nor committee reviews.

For the most part, no mention is made of the member's individual work performed, or assignments, unless it is noted in the minutes. Only two years of minutes are posted for the Committee on Committees.

5. What connection is there to the University's strategic goals?

The three strategic goals adopted by Oregon State University are:

- To create a compelling learning experience for our students, staff and faculty;
- To be recognized as a top-tier university on all scales of measurement; and
- To treat the State of Oregon as the campus of Oregon State University.

The Committee on Committees works to continuously improve the committee structure of the Faculty Senate who in turn helps create and assure the students will have a compelling learning experience.

The work of the Faculty Senate, and all of its committees, should be performed with the goals of a compelling learning experience for everyone; having OSU be recognized as a top-tier university; and working for the entire State of Oregon.