

# Faculty Senate

[Faculty Senate](#) » [Committees/Councils](#) » Bylaws and Nominations Committee

## Bylaws and Nominations Committee

### Bylaws and Nominations Committee 2004-2005 Annual Report

Prepared by Bruce Sorte

#### 1. Committee Members

Bruce Sorte, Chair '05, Agricultural Sciences  
Jennifer Conner-Smith '05, Psychology  
Tony Wilcox '06, Exercise & Sport Science  
Darlene Russ-Eft, '07 College of Education  
Executive Committee Liaison - Joan Gross

#### 2. Senate Elections

We had the opportunity to develop two slates of candidates in 2004-2005. In July 2004, President-Elect Mina McDaniel resigned to accept the position of OSU Director of Academic Programs and Academic Assessment. The Committee met and developed an initial slate. Jennifer Conner-Smith had kept good records from the prior year's routine nomination process. We were able to ask a number of people who had declined previously, yet agreed to reconsider at a later date. Still, it was difficult to find candidates on short notice - to begin serving in January 2005. Jeff Hale and Mina Carson, agreed to run and Jeff was elected by mail vote.

In October 2004, we developed a complete slate of candidates for the offices and the Executive Committee. Our initial list of 15 candidates was well balanced with eight women and representation from most of the colleges. Vickie Nunnemaker verified eligibility and the Committee Members each took some of the potential candidates and asked them to run. Gaining commitments was difficult, as it has been in the past. The Executive Committee suggested a number of additional candidates, the Bylaws & Nominations Committee considered those recommendations and contacted some of those people. This raised an area of concern.

The Executive Committee expressed some frustration that the Bylaws & Nominations Committee exercised some autonomy and did not automatically contact the people suggested by the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee's recommendations are to be accepted without evaluation, then the Bylaws need to be explicit on this point and the Executive Committee needs to develop a procedure to have a careful discussion about each potential candidate that approximates the types of discussions the Bylaws & Nominations Committee completes.

There may also be an expectation by some members of the Executive Committee, and presumably the Faculty Senate, that the Bylaws & Nominations Committee will keep pursuing a balanced slate in terms of gender and college representation until that balance is achieved. As the deadline for publication of the slate and approval by the Senate draws near, that becomes quite difficult. Either that expectation needs to be adjusted or the Executive Committee may want at some point to assume responsibility for the slate. That procedure would also require a Bylaws revision. Eventually Bill Boggess and Mike Quinn agreed to run for President-Elect and the rest of the slate was filled with 14 nominees - 8 men and 6 women from six colleges and the Associated Faculty.

#### 3. Five-Year Review

In the Spring of 2005, the Bylaws & Nominations Committee worked with the Committee on Committees, specifically Darrell Ross who was a great help, on its five-year review. The response to the Committee on Committees, [Sorte/Ross May 2, 2005 email](#), is attached and the recommendation was to continue the Bylaws & Nomination Committee. No major items were raised, however it was interesting

that we could not find a requirement in our standing rules to complete an annual report and believed that might be a good addition.

#### 4. Bylaws Revisions

A number of revisions, per the Hale/Sorte memo of March 28, 2005 - attached, were proposed by the Executive Committee. The Bylaws & Nominations Committee agreed with most of the proposed changes. However, the Committee could not agree with providing more flexibility in terms of the number of Senate meetings per year - reducing the number of required meetings from nine to seven, per the [Sorte/Nunnemaker email of May 2, 2005](#) - attached.

#### 5. Future

The Executive and Bylaws & Nominations Committees' roles in developing the slate of candidates may need some clarification.

It may be worthwhile to visit on a confidential basis with potential candidates who declined to serve as an officer or Executive Committee member to determine what might have induced them to accept the nomination and run. Some small stipend may be useful to encourage participation by providing the necessary relief from teaching, research or public service duties to concentrate on issues that can be complex and have the opportunity to substantially affect the teaching, research and public service provided by OSU.

Thank you for the support provided and professional manner that issues were addressed by the Faculty Senate officers, Vickie Nunnemaker and the Executive Committee as we worked through some challenging circumstances to maintain good leadership and policies for the Senate.

| [Home](#) | [Agendas](#) | [Bylaws](#) | [Committees](#) | [Elections](#) | [Faculty Forum Papers](#) | [Handbook](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Membership/Attendance](#) | [Minutes](#) |

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