

**Final Report**  
**College Senate By-Laws and Elections Committee**  
**2006-07**

The College Senate By-Laws and Elections Committee had three major tasks this academic year, two of which were standard (conducting elections for the at large senators and conducting elections for the slate of College Senate officers and chairs of standing committees for the upcoming academic year. In addition the committee was charge to review the following items this year:

- a. Implementation proposal to consider how to operationalize the faculty majority for the Senate (Senator Maldonado will share her analysis to look at developing a model to present to the Senate as an amendment later this year).
- b. Increased participation in electronic elections
- c. Revisit the issue of participation of graduate students on the College Senate
- d. Relook at the list of present Standing Committees
- e. Revision of the College Senate Handbook
- f. Finally, the committee was asked to review its charge. Our charge is as follows:

Below are the results from each specific item we discussed this year

**a. Implementation proposal to consider how to operationalize the faculty majority for the Senate (Senator Maldonado will share her analysis to look at developing a model to present to the Senate as an amendment later this year).**

The committee did meet with Senator Maldonado at our first meeting to review the proposal she introduced at the May 2006 Senate Meeting (see minutes on Senate Web Site). After a lengthy discussion the committee decided to propose to propose the following motion to the Senate at the February 2007 meeting:

**Recommend Article III, Section C, part 3 be changed to read:**

*“Nine members of the College Faculty (Article II, Section A and B) elected at large by a majority vote of the College Faculty; and”*

to

*“Seven members of the College Faculty (Article II, Section A and B) elected at large by a majority vote of the College Faculty; and”*

The motion was passed at the February meeting and a referendum went before the campus community in March. The referendum passed, and was approved by the President before the April 2007 meeting. The College Senate handbook will be revised to incorporate this change.

**b. Increased participation in electronic elections**

The committee discussed how we could do and decided upon the following ways to stimulate electronic voting in the All-College elections (At-Large & University Faculty senator positions)

- ❖ Work closely with each voting unit (four schools, Professional Staff Caucus, Support Staff, and Administrators to make sure that the lists of eligible voters were as current as could be.

- ❖ Advertise the “*Call for Nominations*” and the “*electronic elections*” via the Daily & Bulletin beginning one month prior to, and continuously until the elections were over.
- ❖ Send hard copies to each member of the campus community in addition to these electronic announcement
- ❖ Announce at the Senate meetings prior to and during both the call for nominations and elections.
- ❖ Send a “*Post Card*” to members of the campus community at the beginning of the election period.

The results were substantial. Those voting electronically this year went from 80 (in 2006) to 189 (this year).

**c. Caucus to accept nominations for Officers for the Senate and Chairs of Committees**

- ❖ Before the final Senate meeting there was a caucus to accept nominations for various positions, including officers. The results of committee chair elections (unopposed) are as follows: Academic Plan: Roswell Park; Budget & Staff Allocations: Ted Schmidt; By-laws & Elections: John DeNisco; Curriculum: Nancy Chicola; Faculty / Staff Welfare: Michelle Bonn; Standards for Students: Elizabeth Stevens; Student Welfare Vice Chair: Ted Schmidt.
- ❖ There will be a run-off election for the following positions:
- ❖ Chair of the Senate: (Candidates are Sharon Cramer & Ron Stewart).
- ❖ Vice Chair: (Candidates are Dick Bihr & Betty Cappella)
- ❖ Chair of Instruction & Research: (Candidates are Heather Maldonado & Greg Wadsworth)

**d. Revisit the issue of the representation of graduate students on the College Senate**

- ❖ The committee invited Dr. Betty Cappella, chair of the Graduate Advisory Council to discuss issues the committee has addressed with regard to issues that concern the graduate student population, and other related matters of concern at the graduate level, and the possibility of forming a permanent Graduate committee. The committee determined that these items required greater study and felt the best way to address them was to recommend to the chair of the College Senate the formation of an ad hoc committee made up of graduate faculty members of the College Senate, graduate students and members of the Graduate Advisory Council. The committee brought the following motion to the Senate Floor at the May meeting:

“Recommend that the Chair of the Senate form an Ad Hoc Committee to study the following and other relevant issues that pertain to our graduate students and our graduate programs:

1. Graduate student representation on the college Senate and the formal process to make them permanent members.
2. The need for a permanent Senate Committee that will look at graduate issues in general.

3. This committee will be comprised of senators who teach at the graduate level, members of the Graduate Advisory Council, and graduate students. Their liaison in administration will be the Dean of the Graduate School

The motion carried.

**e. Relook at the list of present Standing Committees**

With the restructuring that has taken place on campus over the past few years, the committee last year felt it is time to revisit the present committee structure established by the Senate when it was formed. The committee is at the beginning stage of this investigation and will discuss this in greater length next year. The committee was given the current committee charges and a list of University Faculty Senate committees to begin its deliberations.

**f. Finally, the committee was asked to review its charge.**

The committee reviewed its charge and felt it is fine “**as is**”. The committee made one editorial change to the charge below changing the word “agreement” to “agreements” Our charge reads as follows:

**Committee Charge**

The By-Laws and Elections Committee has the responsibility for considering and recommending changes in the By-Laws designed to facilitate the democratic governance of the college, consistent with the policies of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York and other binding legal *agreements*. In addition, the By-Laws and Elections Committee shall conduct the necessary elections provided for in the [By-Laws](#). The rules for conducting these elections and other germane considerations related to elections shall be recommended to the College Senate by the By-Laws and Elections Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
John DeNisco  
Chair, College Senate By-Laws and Elections Committee

**Members of the College Senate By-Laws and Elections Committee, 2005-6:**

John DeNisco, Maria Ceprano, Sharon Cramer, Marie Ferraro, Ken Fujiuchi, Slade Gellin, , Yanick Jenkins, , Bill Mitchell, Bill Raffel, Howard Reid,  
Larry Flood, Administrative Liaison

**Members of the College Senate Ad Hoc Re-conceptualization Committee**

All members of the standing committee, plus Dick Bihr, Bruce Bryski, Kate Hartman, Judy Miller