

Proposed amendments to CLAS faculty governance bylaws for F25 election

Executive summary: These proposed amendments to the bylaws seek to (a) enable an affiliate faculty member to serve on certain CLAS committees currently restricted to tenure-track faculty members, (b) provide for alternate assignment for the chair of the CLAS affiliate faculty advisory committee, and (c) correct a few minor inaccuracies.

Background and rationale for (a):

The CLAS Dean's office has given guidance to unit heads in the form of "Best Practices Regarding CLAS Affiliate Faculty," a document created by the CLAS Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee (CAFAC). Two of these practices are that (1) Departments recognize Affiliate Faculty who serve the College and University in addition to their teaching, and (2) Affiliate Faculty are offered respect by inclusion. In this spirit, we propose that one affiliate faculty member be able to serve on the CLAS Faculty Council (CFC), CLAS Curriculum Committee (CCC), and Faculty Development Committee (FDC). Since the CLAS Personnel Committee (CPC) reviews and makes recommendations on tenure-track faculty only, it is not included in the (a) aspect of the proposal.

CFC and FDC membership is currently 9 tenure-track faculty from CLAS, and CCC membership is currently 12 tenure-track faculty from CLAS. We propose that one seat on each committee could be filled by an affiliate faculty member from CLAS. Note that the proposal is not to create an additional seat on any of the committees. Similar to how each committee restricts membership to no more than two members from any unit in CLAS, each committee would restrict membership to no more than one affiliate from CLAS. Affiliate membership would not be required on any of the committees. The chair position would continue to be filled by a TT member of the committee.

Elections:

Currently, tenure-track (TT) and affiliate (AFF) faculty are allowed to nominate their colleagues to run in elections for any of the five CLAS committees (CFC, CCC, FDC, CPC, and CAFAC). Of course, only TT faculty can accept a nomination for CFC, CCC, FDC or CPC, and only AFF faculty can accept a nomination for CAFAC. With this proposal, both TT and AFF faculty could accept a nomination for CFC, CCC, and FDC. Any number of TT and AFF faculty could run for a seat on CFC, CCC, and FDC, but only one AFF faculty can serve at one time on these committees.

Currently, only TT faculty are allowed to vote for CFC, CCC, and FDC candidates. With this proposal, AFF faculty would also be allowed to vote for CFC, CCC, and FDC candidates. Both TT and AFF faculty could vote for any and all candidates they so choose, regardless of the status of the candidate, TT or AFF.

These proposed amendments will appear on a special fall 2025 election ballot, as one proposal with nine components. If the proposal passes, the changes would be in effect for the winter 2026 election, and affiliate faculty could potentially serve in this new capacity starting F26.

Current wording of section 2a of the CLAS Faculty Governance bylaws:

a. Membership.

For each committee, one third of the membership will be elected at the end of each academic year for a term of three years. Members shall be elected following the procedures in Section 3. Filling of vacancies outside of a regular election is also described in Section 3.

The Faculty Council, Faculty Development Committee and Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee shall have nine members each. The Personnel and Curriculum Committees shall have twelve members each. Only tenured faculty may serve on the Personnel Committee and the membership must be selected by direct election. Only Affiliate Faculty may serve on the CLAS Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee. Both the Faculty Council and the Personnel Committee may include an extra member. To encourage effective communication between Faculty Council and ECS, a member of ECS, selected by the Chair of UAS/ECS, will sit on Faculty Council as an ex-officio member. See the membership sections of those committees' internal bylaws for more information.

Proposed revision:

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Rationale: The sentence "For CFC, FDC and CCC, one seat can be filled by an affiliate faculty member" is added to enable an affiliate faculty member to run for, and serve on, these committees.

Current wording of section 2d of the CLAS Faculty Governance bylaws:

d. Alternate Assignment.

The Chairs of Faculty Council, Personnel Committee, and Curriculum Committee, shall receive one course alternate assignment per semester to complete their responsibilities. The chair of Faculty Development Committee will receive one course alternate assignment in either the Fall or Winter semester (not both) to complete their responsibilities. This alternate assignment is subject to approval by the Dean.

Proposed revision:

d. Alternate Assignment.

The chair of Personnel Committee shall receive one course (3 credit hours) alternate assignment in the fall semester and two courses (6 credit hours) of alternate assignment in the winter semester to complete their responsibilities. The Chairs of Faculty Council and Curriculum Committee shall receive one course (3 credit hours) alternate assignment per semester to complete their responsibilities. The chair of Faculty Development Committee **and Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee** will receive one course (3 credit hours) alternate assignment in either the Fall or Winter

semester (not both) to complete their responsibilities. The alternate assignments listed here are subject to approval by the Dean.

Rationale: The change regarding CPC reflects current practice, and the addition of CAFAC is intended to make the policy of alternate assignment more equitable.

Current wording of section 3f of the CLAS Faculty Governance bylaws:

f. Voting Timeline.

No later than the Monday following the close of the nomination period, the Faculty Council will open the election for voting. Once voting is initiated, faculty members will have a period of seven days to cast their votes. All tenure-line faculty members whose primary unit is in CLAS are eligible to vote in elections for CFC, FDC, CCC, CPC while all affiliate faculty whose primary unit is in CLAS are eligible to vote in elections for CAFAC.

Proposed revision:

f. Voting Timeline.

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Rationale: If affiliate faculty members can serve on CFC, FDC and CCC, then affiliate faculty members must be allowed to vote in CFC, FDC and CCC elections.

Current wording of section 3h of the CLAS Faculty Governance bylaws:

h. Outcome of Elections.

With the following exceptions, the nominee(s) with the highest number of approval votes are elected:

No more than one person from any one unit may serve on CPC. If there are two nominees from the same unit for these committee positions, the one with the higher number of approval votes will be elected; if both nominees are tied, a coin toss conducted by the Faculty Council will determine the winner. No more than two people from any one unit may serve on CFC, FDC, or CCC. If there are three nominees from the same unit for any of these committee positions, the ones with the higher number of approval votes will be elected; if all three nominees are tied, Faculty Council will draw names from a bag (or hat) to determine the winners.

Proposed revision:

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No more than one person from any one unit may serve on CPC. If there are two nominees from the same unit for these committee positions, the one with the higher number of approval votes will be elected; if both nominees are tied, a coin toss conducted by the Faculty Council will determine the winner. No more than two **tenure-line faculty members** from any one unit may serve on CFC, FDC, or CCC. If there are three nominees from the same unit for any of these committee positions, the ones with the higher number of approval votes will be elected; if all three nominees are tied, Faculty Council will draw names from a bag (or hat) to determine the winners.

Rationale: For clarity, “people” is replaced with tenure-line faculty members. This allows the one affiliate faculty member, if one is present on CFC, FDC or CCC, to be from any unit in CLAS.

Current wording of section 3i of the CLAS Faculty Governance bylaws:

i. Announcement of Results.

The Chair of the Faculty Council will communicate the results of the election by posting an updated roster to the CLAS website and the Faculty Council **blackboard page** by the end of the semester of the election. The Chair, or a designate, will notify nominees of the results of the election including the length of term for those who were elected within 7 days after the close of voting. See Section 2c for a discussion of when terms begin.

Proposed revision:

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Rationale: Removing the phrase “Blackboard page” reflects current practice.

Current wording of section 6c of the CLAS Faculty Governance bylaws:

c. Amending the Bylaws.

CLAS faculty members may propose amendments to these Bylaws. Any proposed amendment that receives the support of 2/3 of the Faculty Council will be presented to the Faculty. The amendment shall be discussed in a public forum, which may be held in a discussion board or face-to-face. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the CLAS Faculty at least ten working days in advance of the forum. If online, the forum must be available during that 10-day period. A referendum shall be held on the proposed amendment no more than twenty working days after the forum concludes. At least 2/3 of those who vote must support the proposed amendment in order for the amendment to be adopted.

Proposed revision:

Tenure-line and **affiliate** faculty members whose primary unit is in CLAS may propose amendments to these Bylaws. Any proposed amendment that receives the support of 2/3 of the Faculty Council will be presented to the Faculty. The amendment shall be discussed in a public forum, which may be held in a discussion board or face-to-face. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the CLAS Faculty at least ten working days in advance of the forum. If online, the forum must be available during that 10-day period. A referendum shall be held on the proposed amendment no more than twenty working days after the forum concludes. At least 2/3 of those who vote must support the proposed amendment in order for the amendment to be adopted. Tenure-line and **affiliate** faculty members whose primary unit is in CLAS may vote on proposed amendments.

Rationale: The current wording implies tenure-line faculty members only can propose and vote on amendments to the bylaws. If affiliate faculty members can serve on CFC, FDC and CCC, then affiliate faculty members should also be allowed to vote on CLAS Faculty Governance bylaws.

-----CLAS Faculty Council bylaws – 3 proposed revisions (II.1a(iii), II.1a(iv), and III.1a)-----

Current wording of section II, subsection 1a(iii) of the CLAS Faculty Council bylaws:

All Council members must be tenure-line faculty. Neither unit heads nor assistant and associate deans may stand for election to the Council.

Proposed revision:

One Council member may be affiliate faculty; otherwise all Council members must be tenure-line faculty. Neither unit heads nor assistant and associate deans may stand for election to the Council.

Rationale: This change allows for an affiliate faculty member to run for, and serve on, CFC.

Current wording of section II, subsection 1a(iv) of the CLAS Faculty Council bylaws:

There may be no more than two elected Council members from any one unit in CLAS.

Proposed revision:

There may be no more than two elected **tenure-line** Council members from any one unit in CLAS.

Rationale: For clarity, “tenure-line” is added. This allows the one affiliate faculty member, if one is present on CFC, to be from any unit in CLAS.

Current wording of section III, subsection 1a of the CLAS Faculty Council bylaws:

Election of the Chair. Following the timetable in the CLAS Bylaws for CLAS Faculty Governance, the Faculty Council will elect its own Chair from among its members, including newly appointed and returning members. All members are eligible for the position of Chair. The Chair shall serve for a one-year term. The Chair may be removed from the office of Chair by the affirmative vote of six members of the Council. With the approval of the Dean, the Chair shall receive one course release per semester in order to complete the responsibilities of the position.

Proposed revision:

Election of the Chair. Following the timetable in the CLAS Bylaws for CLAS Faculty Governance, the Faculty Council will elect its own Chair from among its members, including newly appointed and returning members. All **tenure-line** members are eligible for the position of Chair. The Chair shall serve for a one-year term. The Chair may be removed from the office of Chair by the affirmative vote of six members of the Council. With the approval of the Dean, the Chair shall receive one course release per semester in order to complete the responsibilities of the position.

Rationale: This clarifies that the chair must be a tenure-line faculty member.