Governance Committee
Sandra Rezac, Chair
180ᵗʰ Fall Plenary at Binghamton University
October 18 – 20, 2018

Charge: The Committee will concern itself with University-wide governance and shall provide guidance on matters of campus governance. The committee shall interact with local governance leaders of the University. The committee is responsible for the publication of the Governance Handbook and will review and update it every four years.

2018-19 Committee Members:

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Committee Goals for 2018-19:

1. Bylaws revision. We plan to make final corrections to the updated bylaws and procedures book and distribute electronically to Senators. We will continue to work on a document comparison between the current (updated) bylaws and the proposed revised bylaws, including explanations of major changes. We will seek feedback from various groups, including the full governance committee, Executive Committee, and Senators.

2. Standing rules revision. (These were formerly called procedures in the Bylaws and Procedures handbook.)   We will complete revisions to the standing rules, and then bring the bylaws and standing rules revisions to the full Senate for discussion and vote.

3.   Rubric on the assessment of shared governance. Building on work from the SUNY Council on Assessment (SCoA) and the Faculty Council on Community Colleges (FCCC), we will work on developing a rubric to assess shared governance on SUNY state-op campuses.

4. Ombuds Services resolution. We have begun work on the revision of this resolution, which was returned to committee last year. We hope to bring a new resolution to the UFS at the Winter Plenary.

5 Revisit the verification of campus governance consultation resolution. This resolution was passed by the UFS at the Winter 2018 plenary, but the Chancellor chose not to implement it. We will continue to examine the extent to which there are problems on local campuses with governance procedures not being followed for action on academic program proposals, and will continue to explore other solutions. As a start, the SUNY Academic Programs Update weekly email will now be sent to the CGL listserv.

6. Professional staff participation in shared governance. We are working on a resolution to ensure that professional staff are represented by, and able to participate in, shared governance.

7. Index/library of UFS documents. There are many documents which the Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing and updating. We hope to work with the UFS President, Vice President/Secretary, and/or Program Coordinator to determine what documents exist and where they are housed. We hope to explore ways to ensure that the documents are readily available to those who might find them useful (perhaps by working with the Communications Committee), and to determine a schedule to review and update the documents.

8. Contingent staff and shared governance. We plan to revisit this resolution from 2017 to see if we can build on or expand it.

9. Election handbook update. We will work with the UFS Parliamentarian to update the elections handbook.

10. Best practices for administrative searches. This will be postponed until 2019-20.

11. Review and revise the Governance Handbook. This will be postponed until 2019-20.

Committee meeting dates (include type of meeting):
May 15–16, 2018 in Syracuse. This in-person meeting focused on bylaws revisions.
September 20-21, 2018. Fall Planning Meeting in Saratoga Springs. We set the agenda for the 2018-19 year.
September 25, 2018. We discussed the Ombuds Services Resolution during this conference call.

Committee accomplishments since previous UFS Plenary:

Since the Spring 2018 Plenary, we completed the first draft of the Bylaws Revision and sought feedback regarding the revisions from the UFS Executive Committee. We worked on revisions to the Ombuds Services resolution, and we set the committee agenda for the coming year.

Requests to UFS Senators from committee:

Please continue to familiarize yourselves with the existing updated UFS bylaws.