

## Constitution and Bylaws Changes Timeline 2020 – 2024

Constructed by Dr. Katie Zeiders, Secretary of the Faculty 2024-2026

Shared with Faculty Senate on February 3, 2025

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**December 19, 2017, Bylaws approved and updated**

**July, 2018 - Dr. Amy Fountain, Secretary of the Faculty** (July 2018 – July 2020)

**2020, February 27** - Committee of Elections Press release

- Article VIII Section 4 (e): Change to establish a new Senate Standing Committee for DEI (passed; 83.14% voted YES)

**2020, April 28** - Memo to President Robbins from Secretary Amy Fountain asking for approval of revised bylaws

- Article VIII Section 4 (e): Change to establish a new Senate Standing Committee for DEI, passed by general faculty vote and detailed in [press release on Feb. 27, 2020](#)

**2020, July – Dr. Michael Brewer, Secretary of the Faculty** (July 2020 – July 2022)

**2022, March 21** - General Faculty Election – faculty voted on changes to bylaws and constitution (as detailed below in press release)

**2022, April 7** - Committee of Elections Press release

### Bylaws

- Article VIII, Section 2: include VP for Research as member of Senate (Passed; 92.47%)
- Article VIII, Section 4: ensure senate standing committees have access to relevant administrators (Passed; 91.67%)
- Article VIII, Section 4: provide flexibility for adding a postdoctoral scholar to Senate standing Committee (Passed; 85.29%)
- Article VIII, Section 4: Include CIO or their designee as an ex officio, non-voting member of senate executive committee (Passed; 91.62%)
- Article VI, Section 4-6: Include ex-officio voting members from Senate on the Ug and Grad councils and the UWGEC (Passed; 90.96%)
- Article VI, Section 4-6: Require the Committee on Elections post vote totals following all General faculty elections (Passed, 94.07%)

- Article VIII, Section 2: remove voting rights for administrators with ex-officio appointments for Faculty Senate (Passed, 92.47%)

#### Constitution

- Article II, Section 4: clarify how/if voting privileges change when a faculty members home college changes (Passed; 92.70%)
- Article VII, Section 4: Provide options for Senate/Senators to call an emergency Senate meeting (Passed; 92.64%)
- Article VIII: make governance participation (and responsibility) equitable across faculty types within the general Faculty at all levels (Passed; 89.87%)

**2022, April 25** – [Email sent to President Robbins from Jane Cherry](#) (copy in Craig Henderson, Veronica Castro, and Nicholas Rivas). Note that the Secretary of the Faculty was not included on the email. The email included a [Memo to President Robbins](#) from Jane Cherry (staff of the Faculty Center) asking for approval of bylaws revisions that were passed by general faculty on March 21, 2022 (see [press release on April 7, 2022](#)). It also included a [revised version of bylaws](#) and [a clean version of bylaws; a revised version of constitution](#) and [a clean version constitution](#). In the memo, it states that the changes must be approved 90 days (which would have been July 25, 2022) per ABOR Policy 1-113.

**2022, July** - Tessa Dysart, Secretary of the Faculty (July 2022 – July 2024)

**2022, August 15** – [Email to President Robbins from Jane Cherry](#) (copy in Veronica Castro and Craig Henderson) at 11:07am reminding president that he had 90 days to approve changes and he was over that time. The email did not include the Secretary of the Faculty.

**2022, August 15** – [Email to Tessa Dysart and Jane Cherry](#) from President Robbins at 11:20am

- Referring to a memo received [on April 25, 2022 From Jane Cherry](#) summarizing amendments approved in run-off election (as detailed in April 7, 2022 press release), President Robbins notices inconsistencies in the Constitution stating “*it was noted that the Tracked Changes Version of the Constitution provided with the Memo is based on a version of that document that is substantively different than the “Current Ratified Version” of the Constitution that is available on the Faculty Governance website. Because the Constitution and Bylaws cross-reference, this inconsistency likely impacts the Bylaws as well. bylaws that were sent to him (with tracked changes) and the bylaws on the faculty governance website.*” He then says, “*Before the necessary constitutional review can be completed, the Faculty Senate will need to review and revise the memo summarizing the proposed amendments. It*

*will also need to confirm that the proposed amendments are tracked in the appropriate version of the Constitution and Bylaws and that all amendments noted in the memo summary are reflected in the tracked changes. “*

**2022, September** – Secretary Dysart begins process of reviewing bylaws and trying to rectify the inconsistencies that President Robbins has noted. She works backwards and documents the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws by reviewing voting codes from General Faculty and Faculty Senate. She worked closely with Faculty Center staff and staff at the Law School.

**2022, December 5** – Secretary Dysart brings new Bylaw [changes to the Faculty Senate](#): 1. Replace APAC and CSC with UASC (Bylaws, Article VI Section 1; Article VI Section 3, Article VIII Section 2) and 2. A list of eligible voters are made seven calendar days before election (Article IV, Section 2). All passed Faculty Senate votes. Note that she classified Change 1 as housekeeping and Change 2 as substantive (so it would be sent to General Faculty)

**2023, February 10** – General Faculty Election

**2023, February 16** - [Committee of Elections Press release](#)

- Article IV Section 2 (Clarify the list of eligible voters closes 7 calendar days before the election) (Passed; 97%)

**2023, February 22** – Constitution and Bylaws Committee sent [a memo to Faculty Senators](#) (copy in President Robbins and Provost Leisl Folks). The memo discussed 26 changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that had been approved by either the Senate or the General Faculty from 2020-2022 (10 of these changes were identified by Faculty Senate as “substantive” and approved by vote of the General Faculty; 16 changes were identified by Senate as “housekeeping” and were approved by vote of the Senate only). Note that the memo references a detailed history of the 26 changes, but there is no additional document detailing these changes. This memo was emailed to Faculty Senators five days before Faculty Senate.

**2023, February 27** – Secretary Tessa Dysart [presents at Faculty Senate for the C & B committee](#). She discusses the issues President Robbins stated (in [Aug 15, 2022 email](#)) – that he was sent a copy of bylaws and constitution were not consistent with the ratified versions on the website. Tessa carefully reviewed the documents with Faculty Center staff and College of Law support staff to reconstruct what the documents should have been. Tessa went through all the voting records from Senate (2020-2023) and inputted all the changes into the Bylaws and Constitution in tracked changes. Tessa states that at that point, the President didn’t have confidence that faculty knew what their bylaws and

constitution were and was asking Faculty Senate to affirm the correct version of the bylaws and constitution. Tessa was bringing the most current [version of the Bylaws](#) and [Constitution](#) to the Faculty senate to affirm. Senator Marlys Witte brings up questions about the *process*. She always thought it was that Faculty Senate approves, then General Faculty and then the President. Tessa explains that housekeeping changes don't need to be approved by General Faculty; she is unsure if they even need to go to President. Tessa says that if the Faculty Senate affirms the changes today then the two documents will be sent to the President for his approval of the changes (and President will get approval from ABOR). There were questions about why the confusion and mix-up over bylaws/constitution happened; Tessa describes some work with Faculty Center and that she didn't know how things ran under the previous Secretary. The following resolution was proposed: *the Senate resolves that the revisions of the Constitution and Bylaws, attached to its current agenda, accurately reflects (i) all changes to those documents prior to last Spring's faculty votes and (ii) the changes approved by the Faculty last spring, and affirms the legitimacy of those votes.* Faculty Senate approved (38 in favor and none opposed.) Note that given the timeline of review for Senators and limited information about the 26 changes, it is unclear whether Senators had enough information to approve/disapprove.

**2023, April 10** - [Memo to President Robbins from Tessa Dysart](#) stating that the faculty Senate had approved a resolution affirming the Constitution and Bylaws on Feb 27, 2023. She attaches the [memo to faculty senators](#) (from Feb 22, 2023), the [faculty senate minutes from Feb 27, 2023](#), and versions of the [Bylaws](#) and the [Constitution](#).

**2023, August 21** – [Memo to Tessa Dysart from President Robbins](#) referencing the bylaws changes that were submitted on April, 10, 2023. He brings up the following issues: **1)** Constitution, Article VII Section 4 change (the inclusion of allowing Faculty Senators to call a Faculty Senate meeting) – Robbins discussed that it may allow senators to override the Chair's judgement or impede progress. He raises this only for awareness. **2)** he points out that some things were changed as “housekeeping” but may be more substantive (the example he uses is Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution; housekeeping changes approved the inclusion of DCC faculty as who the Faculty Senate represent). **3)** Bylaws Article VII, Section 6 (a) (viii)(14) (c): *The President's decision on reconsideration shall include a statement that an appeal to Superior Court pursuant to the Administrative Review Act, A.R.S. § 12-901 et.seq., if desired, must be filed within thirty-five (35) days from the date when a copy of the decision is served upon the party affected.* He provides a rationale and says that is should be deleted and replaced with the following: *The President's decision on reconsideration is final and not subject to further review.* **4)** Bylaws Article VII, Section 5 & 6 – about grievance reviews and hearings. They were exposed in 2022 spring semester grievance hearing because of confusing language that was incongruent with

UHAP – Asks the C & B committee to review these sections to ensure consistency. **5)**  
 Bylaws Article VII Section 2 – removal of voting rights of ex-officio members  
 (president/provost/CFO) - President does not approve this change. Summary – the  
 versions of Bylaws and Constitution submitted by Tessa are approved (except for non-  
 voting ex-officio members), but Faculty Senate must consider deleting Article VII, Section 6  
 (a) (viii)(14) for any further consideration of revisions. Note several issues here including  
 that the President is making additional approval of bylaw changes contingent on changing  
 a section of the bylaws that were previously not changing.

**September 21, 2023** – [Memo to President Robbins from Tessa Dysart](#)

- Requested approval of Article IV Section 2 (Clarify the list of eligible voters closes 7 calendar days before the election), voted [and approved by Faculty Senate on Dec 5, 2022](#) and by [General faculty Feb 16, 2023](#).
- Requested approval for Bylaws Housekeeping Changes for Article VI Section 1, Section 3 and Article VIII, Section 2 (replacing APAC and CSC with UASC); [approved by Faculty Senate on Dec 5, 2022](#)

**October 27, 2023** – [Memo to Tessa Dysart from President Robbins](#) approving the following changes

- Article IV Section 2 (Clarify the list of eligible voters closes 7 calendar days before the election), voted and approved by General faculty (see [Feb, 16, 2023 press release](#))
- Bylaws Housekeeping Changes for Article VI Section 1, Section 3 and Article VIII, Section 2; all approved by [Faculty Senate on Dec 5, 2022](#)

**October 27, 2023** – [Bylaws approved and updated](#)

- A footnote is added under Article VII, Section 6 (a) (viii) (14) that was not approved by C & B, Faculty Senate or General Faculty.

**Nov 15, 2023** – Email to Tessa from Craig Henderson (cc Leila, Mark, and Mona) with the [memo from Oct. 27, 2023](#)

**January 4, 2024** – [Bylaws approved and updated](#)

- There are no changes to the Oct. 27·2023 bylaws so it is unclear why a revised version was adopted/added to website.
- Note that the footnote is still included under Article VII, Section 6 (a) (viii) (14) that was not approved by C & B, Faculty Senate or General Faculty.