College of Arts and Sciences Bylaws

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BYLAWS

PREAMBLE: The College of Arts and Sciences shall consist of the Chancellor, the President, the Dean, the Faculty, and those students, both graduate and undergraduate, who are academically advised by members of the Faculty of the College. The College serves the instructional needs of undergraduate and graduate students, supports the research and teaching life of the faculty, and seeks to promote intellectual community both within and beyond its membership.

Article X of the Policies of the Board of Trustees directs the faculty of each college to “prepare and adopt bylaws which shall contain (1) Provisions for committees and their responsibilities; (2) Procedures for the calling and conduct of faculty meetings and elections; and (3) Provisions for such other matters of organization and procedure as may be necessary for the performance of their responsibilities.” In accordance with these Policies, in recognition that “provisions of bylaws concerning consultation with the faculty shall be subject to the approval of the chief administrative officer of the college” and in further recognition that the College By-Laws are themselves governed by the By-Laws of the University at Albany, the Faculty has ratified the following set of By-Laws for the College of Arts and Sciences.

ARTICLE I. The Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences.

1. The Faculty shall consist of the Chancellor, the President, the Dean, and all the academic and professional staff as defined in the Policies of the Board of Trustees. Each member of the Voting Faculty, as defined by the Chancellor’s Statement on Governance and Faculty By-Laws of the University at Albany, shall have one vote in Faculty meetings and in College elections.

2. The Faculty shall be responsible for the planning and conduct of the academic programs of instruction and research in the College, subject to the provisions of the Policies of the Board of Trustees and the By-Laws of the University at Albany, SUNY.

3. The Faculty shall normally exercise its responsibilities through the Faculty Council of the College of Arts and Sciences, including the Committees of the Council, and through the Council of Chairs, and its Committees, except in cases when it reserves powers to itself.

4. The Faculty may, at a regular or special meeting, vote to override any action of the Faculty Council and its Committees, except that it may not override actions of the Faculty Council Tenure and Promotion Committee or actions of the Council of Chairs and any Committees it may form.

5. Faculty Meetings.

5.1 The Faculty shall meet regularly at least once during the academic year, and at other times upon call of the Chancellor, the President, the Dean of the College, the Faculty Council, or by petition of 10% of the Voting Faculty.

5.2 The Presiding Officer of the Faculty meetings of the College shall be the Chairperson of the Faculty Council or, in his or her absence, the Vice-Chair.

5.3 The time and place of such meetings shall be set by the Chairperson of the Faculty Council, who shall inform the Faculty at least one week prior to the meeting of the time, the place, and the agenda.

5.4 30% of the Voting Faculty shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at such meetings.

5.5 Items may be placed on the agenda of the meetings by the Chancellor, the President, the Dean of the College, the Faculty Council, the Chairs’ Council, or by petition of 10% of the Voting
Faculty.

5.6 The Faculty Council shall report its work at the regularly scheduled meetings of the Faculty.

5.7 Unless otherwise specified, all meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

6. Initiatives and Referenda.

6.1 The Faculty Council shall, on its own initiative or by petition of 10% of the Voting Faculty, place issues of special importance before the Voting Faculty for a mail or electronic ballot.

6.2 Passage of a proposal by mail or electronic ballot shall require a majority of the votes cast.

7. College Faculty and University Governance

7.1 The Voting Faculty will elect representatives to the University Senate. As regulated by the University Senate By-Laws, the elected faculty members shall serve two-year terms, with one half of the representatives being elected each year.

7.2 University Senators, elected by the College Faculty as specified in the University Senate By-Laws of the University at Albany to represent the College, serve as liaisons between the Senate and College Faculty. Upon request, University Senators from the College will report to the CAS Faculty concerning Senate matters of College interest. Such reporting will generally take the form of periodic reports to the Faculty Council and ongoing communication with the Vice-Chair. While the Vice-Chair periodically reports to the Faculty Council on behalf of the University Senators, Senators themselves are invited to attend Faculty Council meetings as ex officio non-voting members.

ARTICLE II. The Councils of the College of Arts and Sciences.

1. Two-Council Structure.

1.1 The Faculty Council shall be a policy recommending body selected by the College Faculty which will make recommendations to the Dean concerning matters specified under Powers and Responsibilities of the Faculty Council.

1.2 The Council of Chairs shall be a policy recommending body, comprised of all Chairs of College Departments, which will make recommendations to the Dean concerning matters specified under Powers and Responsibilities of the Council of Chairs.

2. Composition of the Councils.

2.1 Composition of the Faculty Council.

2.11 One voting member of the Faculty Council shall be elected from among the teaching faculty of each Department of the College. The Department Chairperson shall certify the election of such member to the Dean. Four voting members of the Faculty Council shall be elected as At-Large members by the voting faculty of the College. The Nominating Committee of the Council shall certify the election of such members to the Dean. Two voting members shall be elected from the Professional Staff of the College. The Nominating Committee of the Council shall certify the election of such members to the Dean. In addition, if a Committee is unable to elect a Chair from among its Councilors, it may nominate its Chair-elect to be appointed for a one-year term as a Councilor by the approval of the Council.
2.12 The Officers of the Council shall be a Chairperson and a Vice-Chair, and a Recorder. The Vice-Chair and Recorder shall be elected for the following year by the combined outgoing and incoming Council at the final spring semester meeting and shall serve one-year terms, effective May 15. At the end of his or her term as Vice-Chair, he or she becomes Chairperson for the following academic year. In the event that the Vice-Chair will have completed his or her first or second successive two-year term by the end of his or her term as Vice-Chair, he or she will continue on the Council for an additional year in order to preserve continuity among elected officers.

2.121 The Chairperson prepares the calendar of Council and CAS faculty meetings, chairs the Executive Committee, meets periodically with the Dean on behalf of the Council, represents the Faculty Council as a non-voting member of the Council of Chairs, and performs any other duties designated in the By-Laws.

2.122 The Vice-Chair shall preside over Council meetings and represent the Council in any other way in the absence of the Chair, shall Chair the Nominating Committee, and may represent the Council at Council of Chairs meetings. The Vice-Chair also communicates regularly with University Senators elected from the College, attends University Senate meetings as a non-voting representative of the Faculty Council, and may advise University Senators, on behalf of the Faculty Council, concerning matters of interest to College Faculty. The Vice-Chair serves as a member of the Executive Committee and prepares to serve as Chair upon expiration of his/her term as Vice-Chair.

2.123 The Recorder shall take and prepare minutes of Council meetings and shall serve as the Council’s point of historical reference and research when necessary. The Recorder is not required to serve on a standing subcommittee.

2.13 The Dean of the College or his or her representative shall be an ex officio non-voting member of the Council, as well as an ex officio non-voting member of all standing committees and sub-committees with the exception of Promotion and Tenure.

2.14 Each member of the Council shall ordinarily serve a two-year term and may serve no more than two terms in succession. An exception to this provision occurs in the event that the Vice-Chair of the Council would ordinarily have completed his or her term(s) at the end of the academic year in which he or she serves as Vice-Chair. The two-year terms of the At-Large members of the Council shall be staggered so that each year two At-Large members shall be elected.

2.15 Election of Councilors shall take place by April 1, the Councilors to take office in the fall semester. The Council shall meet in May for the purpose of electing officers for the coming year. This meeting shall be called and chaired by the Chairperson or the Vice Chair of the outgoing Council. The Nominating Committee will present candidates for election; additional nominations may be offered at the meeting.

2.16 In the event of a vacancy among Councilors representing Departments, the Department whose seat has been vacated shall elect a replacement to fill the unexpired term. In the event of a vacancy among the at-large Councilors, the Voting Faculty of the College shall elect a replacement. The Nominating Committee will oversee those elections.

2.2 Composition of the Council of Chairs.

2.21 The Council of Chairs shall be composed of the Dean and one Chair from each Department in the College.

2.22 Each Chair will normally serve a three-year term which can be renewed if the person is so
appointed.

2.23 The Officer of the Council of Chairs shall be the Dean who serves as the Chair

2.24 The Chair and/or the Vice-Chair of the Faculty Council may attend Council of Chairs meetings as ex officio non-voting members.


3.1 Shared Powers and Responsibilities

3.11 The Councils shall make recommendations to the Dean concerning

3.111 College-wide planning and policy.

3.112 College-wide budget development.

3.113 College-wide personnel policy development.

3.114 College-wide organizational and programmatic changes.

3.115 College- and University-wide nominations and procedures for forming administrative task forces and other committees outside the domain of the standing committees of the Councils.

3.12 The Councils shall make recommendations to the Dean concerning any other College-wide matters proposed by the Dean, either of the Councils, or any member of the Voting Faculty.

3.2 Powers and Responsibilities of the Faculty Council.

3.21 The Faculty Council shall make recommendations to the Dean concerning

3.211 Policies related to faculty development.

3.212 Policies related to academic programs and long-term academic policies.

3.213 Curriculum design and revision.

3.214 Policies related to academic support and support services.

3.215 Nominations for College- and University-wide ad hoc task forces and other administratively-formed committees.

3.22 The Council shall report periodically to the Faculty of the College, including an Annual Report of the activities of its Committees.

3.23 The Council shall have authority to constitute standing and ad hoc committees and shall appoint all members of its Committees, providing that

3.231 Each standing committee shall include no fewer than one Councilor.

3.232 No two members of any Committee shall represent the same department.
3.233 Membership on the Faculty Council is corequisite to serving as Chair of any of the Council's standing Committees. If a Committee is unable to elect a Chair from among its Councilors, it may nominate its Chair-elect to be appointed for a one-year term as a Councilor by the approval of the Council.

3.24 All actions of the Council’s Committees, with the exception of personnel recommendations by the Tenure and Promotion Committee, shall be reported to the Faculty Council and shall be subject to confirmation by the Council.

3.3 Powers and Responsibilities of the Council of Chairs.

3.31 The Council of Chairs shall make recommendations to the Dean concerning

3.311 Short-term academic and administrative planning and policy.

3.312 Budget implementation as well as fiscal spending.

3.313 Personnel policy implementation and enrollment management.

3.314 Policies regarding departmental administration of the College.

3.32 The Council shall have authority to constitute standing and ad hoc committees.

3.33 The Dean shall compile a report of the decisions and activities of the Council each year.

4. Meetings of the Councils.

4.1 Meetings of the Faculty Council.

4.11 The Council shall meet monthly during the academic year and at such other times as designated by the Chairperson.

4.12 Meetings may be requested by the Dean or by a majority of the Councilors.

4.13 The Chairperson shall ordinarily provide notice of a forthcoming meeting at least one week in advance of that meeting.

4.14 The Chairperson or, in the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair, shall preside at Council meetings.

4.15 The agenda shall be prepared by the Chairperson in consultation with the Dean. Any member of the Council shall have the right to introduce an item to the agenda, provided that the Chair receives notice of the item at least two days in advance of the meeting.

4.16 A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Council members.

4.17 Meetings shall be open to the University community unless by a majority vote the Council decides to hold a closed meeting.

4.18 The Council shall keep a record of its proceedings; such record shall be available to members of the College Faculty.

4.19 Meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR).

4.2 Meetings of the Council of Chairs.

4.21 The Council of Chairs shall meet monthly throughout the academic year and may be convened as necessary by Dean.
4.22 The Dean shall lead the meetings and prepare the agenda. Any member of the Council may submit agenda items.

4.23 The Council shall keep a record of its proceedings; such record shall be available to members of the College Faculty.

4.24 Meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR).

ARTICLE III. The Standing Committees of the Councils of the College of Arts and Sciences.

1. The Standing Committees of the Faculty Council.

1.1 The Executive Committee.

1.11 Responsibilities

1.111 Although the Executive Committee will not normally meet during the summer months, members are empowered to act on behalf of the Council as needed during the summer in providing any consultation requested by the Dean or in any other way that will represent the interests of the Council.

1.112 In the spring semester, the Committee shall recommend councilor appointments to the Nominating Committee to serve for the following academic year, to be submitted for action by the Council at its final meeting. The Executive Committee will be guided in its nominations by the same criteria of diversity described in II.1.214.

1.113 The Committee shall establish liaisons with other University administrative, governance, and/or academic units as appropriate.

1.12 Composition and Procedures

1.121 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair of the Faculty Council, the Vice-Chair, the Recorder, and the Chairs of the Council's standing committees.

1.122 The Dean or his or her designee shall be an ex officio member of the committee without voting privileges.

1.2 The Nominating Committee

1.21 Responsibilities

1.211 The Nominating Committee shall recommend non-councilor appointments to the standing committees of the Council, to be submitted for action by the Council at its first meeting of the fall semester. Appointments to ad hoc committees and for midterm replacement of members of the standing committees shall be made by the Chair of the Faculty Council in consultation with the Nominating Committee.

1.212 The Nominating Committee shall assist the Dean's office in nominating and recruiting teaching faculty for various ad hoc committees, such as academic grievances. An ad hoc committee shall be appointed as needed and shall automatically expire upon disposition of the issue that it was appointed to consider.
Ad hoc committees shall consist of three Faculty members, at least one of whom is to be drawn from the Committee, and one student, (one graduate in the case of graduate issues, or one undergraduate in the case of undergraduate issues).

The Dean of the College or her or his designee shall be an ex officio member of the subcommittee, without voting privileges.

1.213 The Nominating Committee shall supervise elections of College members to the University Senate.

1.214 The Nominating Committee will work to ensure that the membership of each committee reflects appropriate diversity.

1.22 Composition and Procedures

1.221 The Nominating Committee shall consist of four members, no fewer than two to be appointed from the College faculty at large.

1.222 The Vice-Chair of the Council will serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

1.223 In order to be eligible for appointment to the Nominating Committee, a faculty member must have completed at least three years of service at the University.

1.224 The Dean or his or her designee shall be an ex officio member of the Committee without voting privileges.

1.225 Recommendations for nominations for any standing committee or for election of College members to the Senate may be made by any member of the College faculty or professional staff, including the Dean, with permission of the candidate, or by a faculty member or professional staff member’s self sponsorship.

1.3 The Tenure and Promotion Committee.

1.31 Responsibilities.

1.311 The Tenure and Promotion Committee shall serve as the "subsequent academic review committee" (University at Albany Office of Academic Affairs, "Guidelines Concerning Promotion and Continuing Appointment").

1.312 The Committee shall review all recommendations from Departments for promotion and/or continuing appointment, except expedited cases, and act on them in accordance with Article XII of the Policies of the Board of Trustees and the University at Albany "Guidelines Concerning Promotion and Continuing Appointment."

1.3.13 The Committee may make recommendations to the Dean concerning policies and issues related to promotion and continuing appointments.

1.314 The Committee shall present to the Council a summary report of its activities by May 1 of each year.

1.32 Composition and Procedures.

1.321 The Tenure and Promotion Committee shall consist of a minimum of nine members. A minimum of one of these members shall be a Councilor, with the remaining members drawn from the College faculty who are not Councilors. At the conclusion of the spring semester, the sitting CAS Tenure and Promotion committee will meet to review the number of cases for the coming year. If the committee determines that, based on the number of upcoming cases, it is
desirable to involve more than the nine regular members in the review process, it will make a recommendation to the CAS Faculty Council Nominating Committee about increasing the size of the Tenure and Promotion Committee for the following year by a specific number. The Nominating Committee will work in consultation with the Dean’s office to add the recommended number of additional members to the Tenure and Promotion Committee.

1.322 Members shall be tenured faculty at the rank of Associate Professor or above. For a committee consisting of nine members, at least five of the nine members must be Full Professors. For a committee larger than nine members the same proportion of associate to full professors must be maintained.

1.323 When considering the recommendations of appointment to the Tenure and Promotion Committee, the Nominating Committee in consultation with the Dean’s Office should ensure that there is proportionally equal faculty representation from each of the general areas of the humanities and the arts, the sciences, and the social sciences.

1.324 No department Chair may serve.

1.325 No faculty member shall serve during the year in which that person’s own promotion is to be considered.

1.326 Members of the Committee shall not be present during the discussion of, nor shall they vote on, cases from the departments in which they have voting privileges on personnel matters.

1.327 The Committee shall be chaired by a member of its own choosing, subject to the requirement that the member is also a Councilor. The Chair, in consultation with the Dean’s office, shall select the members who are to evaluate each case.

1.328 Members of the Committee shall serve terms of two years, with expiration dates staggered to allow for continuity.

1.329 A quorum shall consist of five members, at least three of whom shall be Full Professors.

1.330 Voting on individual cases shall be by secret ballot.

1.4 The Faculty Development Committee.

1.41 Responsibilities

1.411 The Committee shall make primary recommendations to the Dean concerning distribution of awards such as those from the Faculty Research Award Program (FRAP) and any other awards designated by the Dean or for which the Dean may ask Council recommendations.

1.412 The Committee may provide consultation and advice to the Dean and Faculty Council concerning general policies related to inclusiveness.

1.413 The Chairperson of the Committee shall present to the Council a summary report on the activities of the Committee at each meeting of the Council.

1.42 Composition and Procedures.

1.421 The Faculty Development Committee shall consist of no fewer than six members, appointed from among such Councilors and other candidates as the Nominating Committee shall recommend.
1.422 Members of the Committee shall ordinarily serve two-year terms, with expiration dates staggered, and may be reappointed once.

1.423 The Dean or her or his designee shall be an ex officio member of the Committee without voting privileges.

1.424 The Committee shall be chaired by a member of its own choosing, subject to the requirement that the member is also a Councilor.

1.5 The Academic Programs Committee.

1.51 Responsibilities

1.511 The Academic Programs Committee shall review and recommend all course proposals originating in the College of Arts and Sciences related to undergraduate and graduate programs; program proposals related to undergraduate and graduate curricula; and existing courses and programs as the need arises.

1.512 The Committee shall provide consultation and advice to the Council and the Dean regarding changes in University-wide curriculums and programs that may have significant impacts on the College.

1.513 When a student grievance ad hoc committee is formed, the Committee shall provide committee members as needed.

1.514 The Committee may recommend changes in student academic grievance procedures in the College.

1.514 The Chairperson of the Committee shall present to the Council a summary report on the activities of the Committee at each meeting of the Council.

1.52 Composition and Procedures.

1.521 The Academic Programs Committee shall consist of no fewer than six members, appointed from among such Councilors and other candidates as the Nominating Committee shall recommend.

1.522 Members of the Committee shall ordinarily serve two-year terms, with expiration dates staggered, and may be reappointed once.

1.523 The Dean or her or his designee shall be an ex officio member of the Committee without voting privileges.

1.524 The Committee shall be chaired by a member of its own choosing, subject to the requirement that the member is also a Councilor.

1.525 A quorum of the Academic Programs Committee shall consist of four members.

1.526 When the Academic Programs Committee experiences a “high volume” of proposals (more than 4 or 5 course of action forms or program proposals per week), depending on the length and complexity of the proposals, the chair may send programs to the Academic Support Committee for evaluation. During such instances, the Academic Support Committee shall be appointed as a subcommittee of the Academic Programs Committee. The chairs of both committees shall coordinate the work and
recommendations of their committees.

1.6 The Academic Support Committee.

1.61 Responsibilities

1.611 The Academic Support Committee shall provide consultation and advice to the Faculty Council and the Dean on matters of policy and practice concerning Library acquisitions; Computing Center services; computers and associated technologies; labs and research facilities; existing and new physical space; shops; and clerical and technical support personnel.

1.612 The Committee shall undertake activities that may enhance student and faculty awareness of ways to use computers and other technologies in their work.

1.613 The Chairperson of the Committee shall present to the Council a summary report on the activities of the Committee at each meeting of the Council.

1.614 When there is a “high volume” of proposals in the Academic Programs Committee, the Academic Support Committee will consider them as a sub-committee of the Academic Programs Committee.

1.62 Composition and Procedures

1.621 The Academic Support Committee shall consist of no fewer than six members, appointed from among such Councilors and other candidates as the Nominating Committee shall recommend.

1.622 Members of the Committee shall ordinarily serve two-year terms, with expiration dates staggered, and may be reappointed once.

1.623 The Dean or her or his designee shall be an ex officio member of the Committee without voting privileges.

1.624 The Committee shall be chaired by a member of its own choosing, subject to the requirement that the member is also a Councilor.

1.625 A quorum of the Academic Support Committee shall consist of four members.

**ARTICLE IV. Amendments.**

1. Amendments to the By-Laws may be proposed by the Dean, by the Faculty Council, by the Council of Chairs, or by a petition signed by at least ten percent of the Voting Faculty.

2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the Faculty Council in writing. Within six weeks of the submission of an amendment, the Chairperson of the Council or the Vice-Chair shall convene a meeting of the Faculty Council to discuss the proposed amendment and to vote on its approval. If a majority of the voting members of the Faculty Council approve the amendment, the Council then considers whether the amendment should also be submitted to a vote by the entire College faculty. If a majority of the Faculty Council vote to submit the amendment to a vote by the entire College faculty, it will be submitted to the faculty for a vote via mail or e-mail ballot. The amendment will be considered to have passed if approved by a majority of the votes cast. At the discretion of the Chair, an amendment may also be submitted to a vote by the entire College faculty without a majority of the Council members voting to do so.
3. Amendments that have passed via vote by the Faculty Council, and, if called for, via vote by the entire College faculty, shall be considered recommendations to the Dean, whose approval will cause the amendments to become effective.