

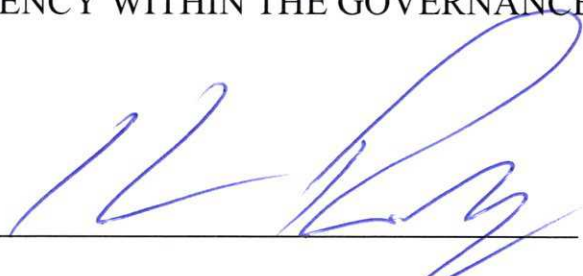
## MEMORANDUM

TO: James Mower, Senate Chair  
FROM: Havidán Rodríguez, President  
DATE: May 20, 2019  
SUBJECT: Senate Bill Approval

I am pleased to approve the following Senate Bill, which was recommended following approval by the University Senate at its meeting of May 6, 2019:

Senate Bill 1819-23: TO CREATE A STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONTINGENCY WITHIN THE GOVERNANCE COUNCIL (SCOC)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Havidán Rodríguez, President

University Senate  
University at Albany  
State University of New York

Introduced by Governance Council, May 6, 2019

Proposal: To create a Standing Committee on Contingency within the Governance Council (SCOC)

- The Standing Committee on Contingency will be responsible for collecting data and writing an annual report due the end of fall on:
  1. Communication with contingents
  2. Demographics/role of contingents in the University
  3. Workplace issues and career development
  4. Other issues and policies that affect contingent faculty
- The Standing Committee on Contingency will act as a liaison for contingent faculty with other councils and committees, and the University administration, by providing and communicating needed feedback on policies that affect any individual appointed to a State-funded position in an academic, professional or library title or obligation that does not lead to continuing or permanent appointments.
- The Standing Committee on Contingency will consist of at least one senator part-time representative, one graduate student, one non-tenure track faculty, one professional faculty in a non-permanent job title, and one tenured faculty member.
- The standing committee will take effect in Fall 2019, once accepted.

#### Justification:

Since 2015, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Contingent Faculty has collected data, written reports, and reported to the University Senate on a regular basis the status of recommendations made by the panel in their final report. This panel was not created as a permanent entity within the university and is expected to disband when their assigned mandate has been completed.

Contingents are defined, using the Blue Ribbon's definition (Oct 1, 2015), as:

*Any individual appointed to a State-funded position in an academic, professional or library title or obligation that does not lead to continuing or permanent appointments.*

This definition, therefore, includes full-time faculty under term contracts (non-tenure track), professional faculty who are in non-permanent (full-time or part-time) job titles, part-time faculty who are on term appointments, and teaching and graduate assistants receiving salary through SUNY. This excludes those who receive funding from outside funding organizations, such as the Research Foundation.

In an effort to build on the work started by the Blue Ribbon Panel, we propose creating a permanent standing committee. In 2018, according to the Progress Report to the Senate (link below), contingent faculty made up 43% of the total faculty, teaching 49% of all courses and 59% of seats offered. Given contingents' crucial role in carrying out the work of the University, in ensuring student success, and contributing to the success of our strategic plan, it is vitally important that there be a permanent committee to monitor contingent issues and policies. Lastly, the committee would act as a liaison between contingents, other university senate councils and committees, and the administration, ensuring, for example, that voting rolls and email addresses are current for the election of part-time representatives to the University Senate and for surveys in which contingent feedback is required.

#### Additional Supporting Documents:

Report of the Panel on Part-time and Contingent Faculty and Staff. Link:

[https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Contingent\\_Faculty\\_Committee\\_Report\\_10-1-2015.pdf](https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Contingent_Faculty_Committee_Report_10-1-2015.pdf)

Progress Report to the Senate on the Contingent Academic and Professional Faculty Agenda, 2018. Link:

[https://www.albany.edu/universitysenate/assets/Progress\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Contingent\\_Academic\\_and\\_Professional\\_Faculty\\_Agenda\(1\).pdf](https://www.albany.edu/universitysenate/assets/Progress_Report_on_the_Contingent_Academic_and_Professional_Faculty_Agenda(1).pdf)