

William Paterson University Faculty Senate Councils
Year-End Report

Academic Year 2023-2024

1. Council: Governance Council

2. **Council Members:** Gary Marks (Chair) [LIB-2024], Solomon Nyaanga [COB-2024], Venkat Sharma [ADMIN-2024], Johanna Prado [PS-2025], Chester Verceglia [ADJ-2025], Deniz Yuzel [COAHSS- 2025], Madeleine Rosar [COSH-2024], COE Rep [2024-Vacant], [date] indicate end of term

3. Council Charges and Summary of Activities:

Standing Charges:

1. Delineate the role of the Faculty Senate in University governance.
2. Review the various governance statements.
3. Recommend patterns of and responsibilities for self-governance by colleges, schools, institutes, divisions and faculties.
4. Review the Policy Manual periodically and suggest policies that need to be reviewed, revised and/or updated.
5. Review proposed amendments to the Faculty Senate By-Laws and Constitution. To provide guidance to the Faculty Senate in the interpretation of proposals and amendment procedures. To maintain accurate records of Faculty Senate Governing documents, including historical records outlining all amendments and alterations.

Priority Charges for AY 2023-2024:

1. Follow up with the Senate Executive Council and outstanding councils to complete Council charges alignment review and assess need for handbooks or manuals for existing Senate Councils and SEC to ensure continuity.
2. Collaborate with the Technology Council on possible use of Sharepoint as a Senate Council document storage option.
3. Collaborate with Senate Councils to draft necessary By-laws amendments in regards to Standing Charges as identified in the Governance Councils Alignment Report.

2023-2024 Summary of Activities:

The Governance Council was forced to postpone or alter many of the Priority Charges identified for AY 2023-24. New items were presented to the council during AY 2023-24 which required a shift in focus. These included a review of the [Program Vitality Review Panels](#) and a complete overhaul of the Senate Council structure requiring several Bylaw amendments. The Council developed several recommendations and presented multiple models for realigning the Council structure to meet the current and anticipated future needs of the Senate ([Council Model Recommendations](#)) (Priority Charge #3). The Council also spent significant time

restructuring the Senate's governing documents ([Constitution](#) and [Bylaws](#)) to ease accessibility and navigation of the documents (Standing Charge #5).

In response to Priority Charge #1, the council collaborated with the Senate Executive Committee to draft a realignment and refocus of Senate Councils based on prior research and assessments of the councils and the anticipated future needs of the Senate and institution. This ultimately led to the creation of twelve Bylaw Amendment Proposals ([Senate Bylaws Proposals April 2024](#)). The proposals were ultimately considered by the Senate and adopted in April 2024.

The council moved forward on Priority Charge #2 by adopting the use of Sharepoint for the council and developing a hierarchical structure for organizing committee documents. This structure will serve as a starting point for discussions with other councils regarding the collection, storage, archiving, and accessibility of Senate Council materials.

Additional council accomplishments.

The council concluded its multi-year work on Constitutional Amendments as several amendments completed the necessary steps for adoption with passage by the Board of Trustees. The council will include the Elections Subcommittee beginning AY 2024-25.

Recommended Charges for the Next Academic Year:

1. Ensure Senate Governing Documents are updated and posted on the Senate website to ensure accessibility.
2. Collaborate with the SEC & Councils on possible use of Sharepoint as a Senate Council document storage option.
3. Seek feedback from Councils on new realignment structure and Standing Charges.
4. Review Elections Manual and Procedures with newly formed Elections Subcommittee.
5. **Please provide suggestions for how the council can be better utilized in the next year:**
Have the Senate review Governance documents and seek input from the Governance Council on operational and structural Senate needs.