

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SENATE
University Structure & Governance Committee
Partial Response

CHARGE

S-0704 *Consider and make recommendations for modifying the Senate's standing committee structure and/or charges. Consider the proposals submitted by the Staff Caucus, by Senator Gayle Stein, and by Senator Martha Cotter when deliberating on this matter. Consider other committee structure modifications that may be needed or proposed. Solicit input from the Faculty Affairs and Personnel Committee, Equal Opportunity Committee, or other committees identified in the proposals or which may be affected by changes considered or suggested under this charge. **ADDENDUM** October 2007: Include in discussions on Charge S-0704 the "Resolution from the Executive Council of the Graduate School-New Brunswick" regarding instituting a Senate Committee on Graduate and Professional Education.*

SUMMARY

The University Structure and Governance Committee (USGC) was charged with evaluating the current structure of standing committees. The Committee considered the overall mission of the Senate and whether the committee structure effectively supported that mission. In addition, the Committee looked at standing and current committee charges and their relevance to the work of the Senate. The Committee also received feedback from committees, various Senators, and the general community on suggested changes.

The USGC believes that the committee structure within Senate should serve the needs of all Senate stakeholders. It should be a vehicle for ensuring shared governance within the University. The Committee is mindful that the standing committees do the lion's share of the work of the Senate, whose success is therefore contingent upon the active participation of Senators in the committee system. Too many committees could potentially dilute this participation. With this in mind, the committee is still evaluating options, but is putting forth the following partial response.

Having conducted this review, the USGC recommends the following actions:

- The Equal Opportunity Committee be dissolved and the standing charge for that committee be distributed among other committees specifically the FAPC and SAC, and the new RGPE.
- A new committee on Research, Graduate, and Professional Education be instituted, the effectiveness of which is to be reviewed after three years.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Equal Opportunity Committee (EOC): The EOC has had few charges in recent years and has for the most part been inactive. There are many reasons for this inactivity, including better institutional response to and anticipation of such issues. However, the USGC does feel strongly that issues related to equal opportunity and equity remain a standing charge within the proposed committee structure.

Article VIII D of the Senate Regulations be amended as follows:

Recommendation:

- The phrase “To advise administrative officers and others, through the Senate, on questions relating to actual, possible or alleged discrimination as it affects the students of Rutgers” be added to the standing charge of the Student Affairs Committee.
- The phrases “To address issues related to workplace climate and working conditions in the university “ and “To provide feedback to central administration on university policies and practices that affect staff and faculty” be added to the charge of the Faculty Affairs and Personnel Committee.

II. Research and Graduate and Professional Education: Graduate and professional education is a central part of the mission of Rutgers as a major research university. Currently there is no standing committee of the University Senate with a major focus on issues unique to research, graduate and professional education, and the students and faculty affiliated with these programs.

Recommendation: Amend Article VIII D of the Senate Regulations be amended to add a Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee (RGPE). The standing charge of the committee would be to have primary responsibility for matters directly related to research, graduate and professional education, and the students and faculty affiliated with these programs. These responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- To provide feedback to central administration through the Senate on university policies and practices that affect graduate and professional students.
- To evaluate and recommend policies concerning both internal funding for research and the conditions under which external research funds are solicited, accepted, and administered.
- To consider intellectual property rights, trademark, copyright, and patent policies of the university.
- To review and advise the central administration on the establishment, termination, or suspension of graduate and professional academic programs.

- In conjunction with the FAPC, to address issues that specifically deal with graduate faculty and research staff.
- To address issues related to workplace climate and working conditions in the university as they concern graduate and professional students.

It is also suggested that the Senior Vice President for Research and Graduate and Professional Education serve as an ex-officio member of the Committee.

University Structure and Governance Committee, 2007-2008

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