

Note: This preliminary draft is only for the purpose of stimulating discussion in the Senate and soliciting feedback to aid the Admin Committee in its work on the charge below.

Senate Administrative Committee Follow-up to Charge for Further Action on the Governance of Programs and Interdisciplinary Structures

In accordance with a Senate Resolution adopted on December 7, 2016, an Ad Hoc Committee on the Governance of Programs and Interdisciplinary Structures (ACGPIS) was created. On May 8, 2018, the ACGPIS report was presented to the Senate and the Senate moved and approved “to refer the report to the Administrative Committee for further action.” This document is the result, the translation of the recommendations of the ACGPIS into the following resolutions for Senate consideration.

The ACGPIS was charged with addressing issues related to the governance of all programs “including those entities officially named Programs, Institutes, Centers, Schools, and any other non-departmental or interdepartmental entities offering or managing courses of study in any capacity.” The task of the committee was to (A) research current structures and practices pertaining to the governance of such entities at Hunter College, (B) consult with all relevant programs and administrative offices, (C) consult and coordinate with all relevant Senate committees, including the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee, and (D) report to the Senate and make “recommendations for Senate action to ensure the faculty governance of Programs and Interdisciplinary Structures.”

The ACGPIS report found that many interdisciplinary curriculum and degree programs are currently effectively administered through single departments or cooperative arrangements between departments or between schools and departments. For such departmental and cooperatively run interdisciplinary curricular programs, there already exists explicit policy on the structure of the underlying academic units stated in the CUNY By-laws and the Charter for the Governance of Hunter College, both of which assume departments (the units through which faculty must be originally appointed) as the fundamental academic units responsible for curriculum. Where explicit governance policy is currently needed is for curricular programs administered independently of departmental curriculum or policy committees. The CUNY By-laws and the Hunter College Governance Charter are silent on governance policy for such non-departmental academic units, called ‘programs’ in the ACGPIS report. The overall recommendation of the ACGPIS was that “all programs and interdisciplinary structures at Hunter should be faculty led and governed; and, that all structures should seek Senate approval for a governance document, which guarantees that roles and functions are filled and properly defined with full transparency.”

The Administrative Committee has translated the recommendations of the ACGPIS into five resolutions that articulate explicit policies and principles regarding the structure and governance of non-departmental academic units at Hunter College, and a sixth resolution for further action relating to other standing committees:

- I. Making explicit a broader academic governance framework that ensures faculty governance of non-departmental academic units.
- II. Specification of the minimum required structure for non-departmental academic units.
- III. Requiring Approved Governance Plans & By-laws for non-departmental academic units.
- IV. Establishing a standing Senate Committee on Interdisciplinary Cooperation.
- V. Policy for Establishing New Non-Departmental Academic Units.
- VI. Charges to Other Standing Senate Committees: Charter, Governance, and UCSC (Undergraduate Course of Study Committee) and GCSARC (Graduate Course of Study & Academic Requirements Committee).

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SENATE

Resolution I: Ensuring Faculty Governance of Non-Departmental Academic Units

RESOLVED, That for non-departmental academic units, curriculum, courses of study, and degrees shall be determined, controlled, and implemented by full-time tenure-track faculty or faculty on lines bearing a Certificate of Continuous Employment (CCE-line faculty).

Resolution II: Minimum Required Structure for Non-Departmental Academic Units

RESOLVED, That any non-departmental academic unit shall include the following:

- (1) a body of tenure-track and CCE-line faculty to serve as voting members of the unit and its committees, where membership is defined in terms of explicit criteria and manner of selection;
- (2) a faculty policy committee (or committees) whose responsibilities shall include the development, review, and approval of the curriculum offered by the unit (including courses, minors, certificates, majors, and degrees), and the implementation of the unit's curriculum and student advising;
- (3) an administrative body (e.g. a director or co-directors) that carries out the policies approved by the unit as well as the day-to-day running of the unit and other administrative tasks specified in the unit's by-laws.

Resolution III: The Establishment of By-laws for Non-Departmental Academic Units

RESOLVED, That once approved by the Hunter College Senate, a new non-departmental academic unit shall submit by-laws within two years, consistent with its approved governance plan, for approval by the Senate Committee on Governance and for adoption by the Senate.

RESOLVED, That non-departmental academic units existing as of Fall 2019 shall work with the Senate Committee on Governance to formulate by-laws within two years and have them approved by the Committee on Governance and adopted by the Hunter College Senate.

Resolution IV: Establishing a standing Senate Committee on Interdisciplinary Cooperation.

Make-up: the following members (all with vote):

- one full-time faculty member from each Division of the School of Arts and Sciences,
- one full-time faculty member from the School of Education,
- one full-time faculty member from the School of Social Work,
- one full-time faculty member from the Division that includes the School of Nursing and Health Professions and Urban Public Health,
- one at-large full-time faculty members from the School of Arts and Sciences,
- one additional full-time faculty member affiliated with an interdisciplinary program, two undergraduate students (one and only one of whom shall be from an honors program),
- one graduate student,
- the Provost (or designee),
- the Dean of Arts and Sciences (or designee), and
- a Dean from an additional School to be determined by the Provost.

Serving with voice but without vote: the Chair of the Senate Departmental Governance Committee (or designee) and the Chair of UCSC (or designee).

The voting members of the committee shall elect a Chair from among its full-time faculty members.

Charge:

- to serve as an incubator for interdisciplinary innovation and cooperation in the college;
- to report regularly to the Senate on interdisciplinary curricular developments in the college;
- to develop events that support and foster interdisciplinary innovation and collaboration at the college;
- to make appropriate recommendations to the college's governance bodies concerning the development and administration of interdisciplinary curriculum, including when and whether it is best administered through a department, a cooperative arrangement between departments and/or schools, or a non-departmental academic unit;
- to serve as a venue for student and faculty concerns about how to improve or change existing organizational arrangements for offering interdisciplinary curriculum.

(Note: if Resolution IV is approved, then it shall be forwarded to the Charter Review Committee for inclusion in Charter Revisions to be considered in Spring 2020. See Resolution VI below.)

Resolution V: Policy for Establishing New Non-Departmental Academic Units

RESOLVED, That proposals to create non-departmental academic units should be sponsored by faculty on tenure-track or CCE lines with the expressed support of the Provost as well as of the relevant departments in which the unit's faculty would hold original appointments or, upon appeal, of the Committee on Interdisciplinary Cooperation. Together with the UCSC or GCSARC, and in consultation with the Committee on Interdisciplinary Cooperation, proposals for the creation of non-departmental academic units shall be vetted by the Senate Governance Committee, who must approve the proposed governance plan before the unit is considered by the Senate.

Resolution VI: Charges to Other Standing Senate Committees: Charter, Governance, and UCSC

RESOLVED, That the Senate Charter Review Committee devise for consideration by the Senate amendments to the Charter to reflect Resolutions ____ approved above.

RESOLVED, That the Senate Governance Committee devise guidelines for the by-laws of non-departmental academic units consistent with the Resolutions _____ approved above.

RESOLVED, That the Senate Undergraduate Course of Study Committee and Graduate Course of Study and Academic Requirements Committee amend the *Procedures for Preparing and Submitting Curriculum Proposals for College Approval* to reflect Resolutions ____ approved above.