

AGC Decision Form

AGC Bylaws

Decision

On December 12, 2023 the AGC membership voted to approve revision of the AGC Bylaws, with the following language:

Grand Rapids Community College's Academic Governing Council (AGC) is a collaborative initiative between faculty and academic administration to strengthen communication and increase involvement in academic issues and policies.

By fostering and encouraging a broader input and a sense of accountability, AGC leadership effectively mediates issues that impact students, staff and faculty.

The acronym AGC replaces the Academic Governing Council wherever the full title appears in the document.

Article I, section 1.: Deleted language on elections through a secret ballot system to replace with language referencing the following choices: *vote electronically or at an AGC meeting.*

New language in Article I, section 1.: Department Head/Program Directors and AGC Faculty members will vote for two Department Head/Program Directors and two of their At-large Faculty peers to serve on the committee.

New language in Article I, section 2, 6.: The Executive Committee will also perform the duties of the meeting chairperson on a rotating basis to be determined by the Committee. The individual serving as meeting chairperson at a particular meeting will only be allowed to vote in the case of a tie. The individual serving as meeting chairperson will be allowed to cast proxy votes according to the rules outlined in these bylaws. All other members of the Executive Committee will be voting members of the AGC. If the Provost has selected a non-voting member to serve on the Executive Committee, that individual will not be allowed to vote on AGC matters of the General Body but will be able to vote on internal Executive Committee issues.

Article IV, Section 1: Clarified and made updates to committee membership in Standing Committees:

1. Sabbatical Committee (Faculty members and Administrators per Faculty Contract)

2. IIPD Committee (Faculty and Academic Administrators)
3. Excellence in Education (Faculty members)
4. Academic and Student Affairs Council (Administrators)
5. Distance Learning Faculty Advisory Board (Faculty, Academic Administrators, and Staff)
6. Grade Appeal Hearing Committee (Faculty and Academic Administrators)
7. Curriculum Approval Committee (Faculty and Academic Administrators)
8. General Education Review Team (Faculty, Academic Administrators, and Staff)

New language added in Article V, Section 1, 1: Elections of At-Large full-time faculty shall take place in the Fall Semester prior to the first meeting of the AGC.

New language in Article V, section 1, 2.: In addition, there shall be a school-wide At-Large representative representing each of the Academic Schools, and Student Success. At-Large representatives will self-nominate or will be nominated by faculty colleagues and approved in electronic elections by a plurality of faculty members casting votes in their respective schools. If a candidate fails to achieve a majority vote, a new nomination must be solicited from the AGC.

New language in Article V, section 1, 3.: Adjunct faculty representatives from each of the Academic Schools will self-nominate or will be nominated by faculty colleagues and approved in electronic elections by a plurality of faculty members casting votes in their respective schools. Votes on adjunct representation will take place prior to the first meeting of the AGC every Fall semester. Service on the AGC will cease with termination of employment.

Additional language in Article V, section 1, 3.: "payment of adjunct faculty AGC member the equivalent of one contact hour per semester at the discretion of the adjunct faculty member"

New language in Article V, section 1, 4.: Deans, Associate Deans, Executive Director of the Lakeshore Campus, and the Registrar are voting members of AGC.

New language in Article V, section 2: Department Heads/Program Directors and members of the Academic and Student Affairs Council are required by these Bylaws to participate in Council proceedings.

New language in Article V, section 3: New representatives shall take office during the Fall Semester. Replacement of current members will take place as needed throughout the year or to comply with any changes to these Bylaws.

New language in Article IX, section 2, 1.: Academic administrators shall include Academic Deans, Associate Deans, Executive Director of the Lakeshore Campus, Associate Provost of Instructional Support and Institutional Planning, Registrar and the Provost.

Sponsor/Champion of Proposed Policy

Co-Chairs: Nick Antonakis (Visual Arts) and Greg Forbes (Biological Sciences)

Team members: Mike Light (Social Sciences), AGC Executive Team

Rationale

The AGC Executive Team recommended that language of the AGC Bylaws be changed for the following reasons:

- Improve consistency of terms used within the document
- Change of membership to include At-Large-School Representatives from all the Academic Schools due to recent restructure
- Change of membership to include Adjunct School-Wide Representatives from all the Academic Schools due to recent restructure

Supporting Data

The AGC Bylaws Review Team:

- Presented GRCC restructure of academic Schools and the need for representation of these schools at AGC
- Clarified abbreviations (for example AGC) and Team titles (for example Academic and Student Affairs Council replaces the Deans' Council title)
- Reviewed feedback from AGC discussions and breakout room conversations to provide clarification and update to the Bylaws document

Implications for Action

- Additional school-wide At-Large Faculty Representatives to AGC will be elected to serve on the AGC
- Additional school-wide Adjunct Faculty Representatives to AGC will be elected to serve on the AGC
- Elections of School-wide AGC Representatives will be determined by a plurality of the votes cast in each respective school.
- There is a concern that the Bylaws document does not have a section on compensation for any members of AGC. The addition of a statement singling out EOL compensation for adjunct faculty representatives serving on AGC is inconsistent with the rest of the Bylaws document.
- There is a concern that the electronic voting on the issue of adding EOL compensation for those adjunct serving on AGC was not accurate.

When the Slido (voting software) was reopened to verify the tally, multiple members changed their votes when the vote tally was being viewed. Subsequently, membership disputed the accuracy of the vote.

Date of Decision by AGC

Date: December 12, 2023

Vote: 64% approved, 32% not approved, 4% abstained

Bylaws were approved.

Passed – 28 yes, 6 proxy yes, 16 no, 1 proxy no, 2 abstain

Section to be Completed by the Provost

Evaluation Plan

See Response from Provost below.

Response from Provost

Given the two concerns outlined above, I am sending this decision back to the Academic Governing Council (AGC) for re-evaluation. Per the current AGC Bylaws, the Council is required to send the issue back to committee, with the concerns outlined above, to begin the process anew. My expectation is that the Bylaws review will be presented to the AGC body beginning with the February 2024 AGC meeting and that this review will

follow the three-presentation process. Furthermore, upon consideration of the concern expressed above with regards to compensation and the AGC Bylaws, it is my expectation that the outcome of the continued Bylaws review will result in the document remaining consistent with AGC's role to provide recommendations on academic issues. I welcome further input and discussion regarding the compensation question for adjunct faculty AGC members but within the purview of the existing special assignment process for EOL provided for in the faculty contract and not the AGC Bylaws.

Shirley Jones 1-16-24