UNIVERSITY-LEVEL COMMITTEES

PREAMBLE: This section outlines the regulations governing university-level committees (Part B). It also includes a section on guidelines for committee chairs (Part C). In 2007 this section was substantially revised to reflect current process, in 2008 minor changes were made to B-2, 13 and C-13, and in 2010 Faculty Council was changed to Faculty Senate and B-7 was revised to address chair appointments. For further information, contact the Office of the Faculty Secretary (208-885-6151). [ed. 7-00, rev. 1-07, 7-08, 7-10]

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A. FUNCTION, STRUCTURE, AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES. See 1640 for the function and structure of each university-level standing committee. The list of members appointed to serve on these committees is published on the Faculty Senate website at http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/facultycouncil/committees.htm, after the beginning of the academic year by the Committee on Committees. [rev. 1-07, ed. 7-10, 12-13, 1-17]

B. REGULATIONS GOVERNING COMMITTEES. The following is a codification of the general regulations governing committees:

B-1. As used here, “committee” is a general term denoting any standing or special committee, subcommittee, council, board, senate or similar body. [ed. 7-10]

B-2. The establishment, discontinuance, or restructuring of, and the assignment of responsibilities to, standing committees of the university faculty are policy actions that require approval by the Faculty Senate. [rev. 1-07, 7-08, 7-15, ed. 7-10]

B-3. Ad hoc committees to advise the president and university-level standing committees that are composed primarily of administrators (e.g., Publications Board) are appointed by the president.

B-4. The Committee on Committees appoints, subject to confirmation by the Faculty Senate, members of standing committees of the university faculty. The chair of Faculty Senate establishes special Faculty Senate committees and appoints their members. [ed. 7-10]

B-5. In selecting staff members to serve, the Committee on Committees seeks nominations from the Staff Council Affairs Committee, which considers expressions of interest by employees to serve on various committees and the qualifications of employees with reference to existing committee vacancies. Approved service by staff members on university committees is considered a valuable service to UI, within the scope and course of employment. Provided the staff employee can be released from regular duties, time spent in committee service is not charged against the employee’s annual leave or compensatory time balances, and the employee is not expected to make up time away from normal duties for committee service. (In cases where staff employees are elected to serve, e.g., on the Staff Council Affairs Committee itself, it is expected that the employee will first secure the consent of his or her supervisor before becoming a candidate.) [ed. 7-]
B-6. Ordinarily, no faculty committee will be chaired by an officer who is substantially responsible for implementing the policies or recommendations developed by the committee.

B-7. Unless otherwise noted within the structure of a committee in FSH 1640, chairs are selected by the Committee on Committees. The chairs of faculty standing committees generally are rotated so that no committee comes to be identified with one person. [rev. 7-10]

B-8. The president of the university, or the president’s designee, is a member ex officio of all UI committees, regardless of how the committees may have been established or appointed. On committees under the jurisdiction of the university faculty or of the Faculty Senate, the president or the president’s designee serves without vote. [ed. 7-10]

B-9. The chair of the Faculty Senate is a member ex officio without vote of all committees under the jurisdiction of the university faculty or of the Senate. [ed. 7-10]

B-10. Students are to be represented, if they so desire, on faculty committees that deal with matters affecting them. Except for student members of the Faculty Senate, the Committee on Committees receives nominations from the ASUI, GPSA and SBA to fill positions established for student members of faculty committees. [See 1640.] If, 21 days after the first day of classes of the fall semester, nominations have not been submitted to fill student positions, the committees on which the vacancies exist are authorized to disregard the vacant student positions in determining a quorum. [rev. 1-07, 1-14, 7-14, ed. 7-10]

B-11. The membership of individual members of standing committees of the university faculty may not be terminated involuntarily except for cause and with the concurrence of the Committee on Committees with the possibility of appeal by the faculty member to the Faculty Senate. [ed. 7-10, rev. 7-17]

B-12. UI committees meet on the call of the chair. Committees under the jurisdiction of the university faculty or any of its constituencies may be convened by at least 35 percent of the members of the committee with a three-day written notice to all members. [rev. 1-07],

B-13. A quorum for any committee under the jurisdiction of the university faculty or any of its constituencies consists of at least 50% of its voting members, unless otherwise stated in the committee structure. [add. 1-07, rev. 7-08]

B-14. Voting:

- Proxy votes are not permitted in committees under the jurisdiction of the university faculty or of the Faculty Senate. [ren. 1-07, ed. 7-10]

- Email voting under some circumstances is allowable. However, it must be agreed to by all members at the meeting. There must be an explicit understanding that anyone can ask that voting be delayed until the next meeting as a group. Examples of email voting include: committee is nearing the end of a meeting and discussion has been sufficient for the secretary/chair to draft a recommendation, confirming nominees/appointments, etc. [add. 1-17]

B-15. Unless otherwise provided, assignments to faculty committees begin on the official opening date of the academic year, whichever is earlier. [ren. and rev. 1-07]

B-16. Open Committee Meetings. [ren. 1-07]
a. Meetings of university-level committees, committees of the colleges, divisions, subdivisions, and other UI units, and ad hoc committees, however created, are open to the public with the exception of those meetings, or those parts of meetings, that deal with confidential employee or student matters, [see B-16-d]. [ed. 7-00, rev. 1-07]

b. Observers may speak only by invitation of the chair.

c. Observers may use their own tape recorders or other recording devices. Also, they will be provided a copy of any recordings made by the committee, if they request a copy through regular channels and pay the full costs involved in making the copy.

d. An exception to the exception stated in B-16-a is permitted in hearings on appeals when the appellant demands in writing before the hearing board’s first meeting that the hearing be open to the public; nevertheless, the chair of the hearing board has the power to close the hearing to the public if, in the chair’s opinion, the atmosphere becomes detrimental to the orderly conduct of the proceeding. Moreover, the chair has the power to exclude prospective witnesses from the hearing until they have testified. [ed. 1-07]

B-17. Standing committees are to keep minutes and to distribute them as provided in C-7. [ren. 1-07]

B-18. Smoking is prohibited in official meetings and hearings of UI committees. [ren. 1-07]

B-19. Rules of Order. [See 1520 VI.] [ren. 1-07]

C. GUIDELINES FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS. These guidelines were developed by the Committee on Committees as suggestions for the effective handling of committee business and clarification of certain minimal requirements of these committees. The Committee on Committees recognized that not all items will apply equally to all committees and that some items will not be appropriate to some committees.

C-1. At the beginning of each semester, contact committee members about times they would be available for a set meeting (for committees that do not have set meeting times already established) so that the times that the committee members will be available to meet can be ascertained. [rev. 1-07]

C-2. Hold an organizational meeting as early as possible in September to discuss and review the charge of the committee (see FSH 1640), its procedures, and possible agenda items, and if desirable select a secretary. [rev. 1-07]

C-3. To ensure that committee business is not delayed when the semester begins, committee chairs are encouraged to recommend and submit names of staff and students for any vacant position to the Faculty Secretary’s Office for consideration and confirmation. All names that are recommended will be handled following the normal approval process. [add. 1-17]

C-4. Establish the best means of getting in touch with each student member. [ren. 1-17]

C-5. Issue a standing invitation to members to submit appropriate agenda items. Call a meeting when enough agenda items have accumulated to warrant it or when a particular agenda item warrants immediate attention. Alternatively, contact committee members periodically to ask if there are problems that need to be considered. [rev. 1-07, ren. 1-17]
C-6. Send an agenda with the call of a meeting to all members at least one day (24 hours) in advance of the meeting, if possible, and post it to the committee’s web page at http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/facultycouncil/committees.htm. [rev. 1-07, ren. 1-17, 7-17]

C-7. Read the minutes of each meeting carefully to make certain that the intent of the committee is accurately represented. [ren. 1-17]

C-8. Send agenda and approved minutes of each meeting of the committee to the Faculty Secretary’s Office at facsec@uidaho.edu and send copies to members of the committee. Committees that address matters with confidential employee or student matters, shall keep such minutes confidential. All materials for these committees will be forwarded to the Office of the Faculty Secretary for filing and archiving. Also, inform other officers who are directly concerned with the work of the committee. To assist with record keeping, number meetings of the committee consecutively; e.g., “minutes#1_mmddyy.” [rev. 1-07, 7-17, ren. & rev. 1-17]

C-9. Hold hearings when substantive policy changes are proposed. When feasible, invite those who will be affected by the committee’s action to present their views to the committee. [ren. 1-07, 1-17]

C-10. Inform those who are affected by the committee’s actions of such actions. [ren. 1-07, 1-17]

C-11. Promptly submit reports of actions requiring approval by the Faculty Senate in care of the Office of the Faculty Secretary for placement on the Faculty Senate agenda. Be prepared to attend the Faculty Senate meeting to answer any questions that arise. [ren. & rev. 1-07, ed. 7-10, ren. 1-17]

C-12. Inform the Office of the Faculty Secretary of any resignations from the committee and any excessive absences. Excessive absences will be referred to Committee on Committees to determine whether cause exists to replace the member. [ren. & rev. 1-07, ren. 1-17]

C-13. Prepare a brief year-end report for submission to the Faculty Senate in care of the Office of the Faculty Secretary for distribution as needed. [ren. & rev. 1-07, ed. 7-10, ren. 1-17, rev. 7-17]

C-14. Prepare a transition file for next year’s chair highlighting past issues (year-end report could be used), issues that are in progress, or issues that still need to be addressed. Plan to attend one or two meetings of the new committee to ease transitioning. [ren. & rev. 1-07, rev. 7-08, ren. 1-17]

C-15. Call on the Office of the Faculty Secretary for information and assistance concerning points not fully covered in these guidelines. [ren. 1-07, 1-17]