SP.23.08 Revision to the Bylaws, Part D.2 – Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure

BACKGROUND
The proposed revision would designate the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AF) as the committee specified by the Senate to consult with the Chancellor on procedures for cases involving severe sanctions other than dismissal for cause for members of the faculty under Article IX, Section 6 of the Statutes. These changes would also better delineate the elements of part 2.a and separate hearing committee categories into a new section, part 2.c.

RECOMMENDATION
The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends the approval of the following revisions to the Bylaws. Text to be deleted is struck through and text to be added is underlined. Adoption of amendments to the Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

REVISION TO THE BYLAWS, PART D.2 – Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure

2. Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure

a. Duties

The Committee shall:

1. Shall serve as an authorized group to safeguard ensure
   a. the academic freedom of the tenure system and non-tenure system faculty, as well as other members of the academic staff, and
   b. the tenure status of the tenure system faculty, and
   c. to assure that unit governance is in accordance with the Statutes and unit bylaws;

2. Shall conduct hearings in cases involving dismissal of faculty, as provided in the Statutes, Article X;

3. Shall serve, as provided in Article IX, Section 6 of the Statutes, as the committee specified by the Senate to consult with the Chancellor on procedures for cases involving severe sanctions other than dismissal for cause for members of the faculty;
a. Procedures shall include, at a minimum, consultation with the Committee on the
determination that cause exists to initiate proceedings that might result in the
imposition of serious sanctions, and

b. Conduct hearings in such cases;

4. May investigate instances of possible infringement of academic freedom, and hear
cases involving allegations of such infringement, and may make such recommendations
to the Chancellor and reports to the Senate as are appropriate; and

5. The Committee may investigate and make recommendations regarding allegations of
violations of the role of tenure and non-tenure system faculty in governance as specified
in the Statutes and unit bylaws, while respecting the autonomy of the individual units,
and report to the Chancellor and the Senate if appropriate changes are not made. The
Committee will respect the autonomy of individual units when making any
recommendations regarding governance.

b. Membership

The Committee shall consist of:

1. Seven tenure system faculty members whose administrative duties are below the
level of deans and directors, with no two members from any one college, school,
institute, or similar unit; and;

2. One non-tenure system faculty member;

3. One academic professional member; and

4. Three students, of whom at least one shall be an undergraduate and at least one
shall be a graduate or professional student.

c. Acting as a hearing committee on a case for:

1. Tenure system faculty member

When the Committee is called to serve as a hearing committee under Article X,
Section 1(e) or Section 2 of the Statutes on a case involving a tenure system faculty
member, the non-tenure system faculty member, the academic professional
member, and student members shall not participate in its activities or deliberations and shall not be counted as Committee members for determining the quorum.

2. Non-tenure system faculty member

When the Committee is called to serve as a hearing committee under Article IX, Section 12 or Article X, Section 2(d) of the Statutes on a case involving a non-tenure system faculty member, the academic professional member and the student members shall not participate in its activities or deliberations and shall not be counted as Committee members for determining the quorum.

3. Other academic staff member

When the Committee is called to serve as a hearing committee under Article IX, Section 12 or Article X, Section 2(d) of the Statutes on a case involving another member of the academic staff, as described in the Statutes under Article IX, Section 4, the student members shall not participate in its activities or deliberations and shall not be counted as Committee members for determining the quorum.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES
David Dalpiaz, Chair
H. George Friedman
Shawn Gilmore
Michael Grossman
Michael Han
Kyle Johnson
William Maher
Megan Pickens
Jessica Mette, ex officio
Sharon Reynolds, ex officio
Jenny Roether, ex officio