

AGC Decision Report

AGC Bylaws

Decision

On April 9, 2024 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: ***Faculty officers will be elected 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.***

Delete the following in Article I, section 1.: ***At-Large Faculty will vote for two at-large full-time faculty representatives of their peers to serve.***

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 ***Executive*** 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 members)
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 **Team** (Faculty and Academic Administrators)
8. General Education Review Team (Faculty **and** Academic Administrators)
9. Learning Environment Team (Faculty, Academic Administrators, and Staff)

Each standing committee ***will be asked to submit a team charter and report on an annual basis and*** may be asked by the **AGC Exec** Chairperson to update the membership about committee activities and actions during the Academic Year.

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. Departments with faculty membership that do not have program directors or department heads must elect one representative. Candidates will self-nominate or will be nominated by faculty colleagues and approved*** by majority vote of the faculty members ***in each Academic School.*** 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 majority of the adjunct faculty from the respective schools who participate in the vote. 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.

New language in Article V, section 1, 4.: Deans, Associate Deans, **the 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 VII, section 2: All motions and decisions will follow the *Democratic Rules of Order* (**current edition by Francis and Francis**).

New language in Article VII, section 3: Once the **AGC** has reached a decision on an issue, the Executive Committee **will submit the AGC's recommendation to the Provost via a Decision Report**. The Provost will be responsible for responding in writing to the Executive Committee. The response must occur within ten working days after receipt of the Decision **Report**.

New language in Article VII, section 4, 1.: At this point, the Provost has **two options**:

1. The Provost can concur with the decision and begin implementation of the decision. The Provost will also be able to request evaluation procedures and data feedback measures to ensure that the decision is having the desired effect.

New language in Article VII, section 4, 2.: **The Provost retains the right to send the decision back to the Academic Governing Council for re-evaluation.** The re-evaluation process will require the Council to ...

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

New language in Article IX, section 2, 2.: Faculty members are those individuals **currently** working under the faculty contract.

New language in Article X: Meetings of the **AGC** shall be conducted in accordance with the *Democratic Rules of Order*. Each member of the Council will be provided with a copy of the Democratic Rules (**current edition by Francis and Francis**). All other questions regarding procedures and meetings should be addressed to the Executive Committee for resolution.

New language in Article XI, section 1: Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed by members of the **AGC** or by petition of no fewer than 25% percent of the combined membership of the faculty and **voting** academic administrators.

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
- Remove new language regarding Adjunct Faculty members' compensation
- Return to language offering the Provost two options on decisions made by the AGC

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 Dean's 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.

Date of Decision by AGC

Date: April 9, 2024

Vote: 98% approved, 0% not approved, 2% abstained

Bylaws were approved.

Section to be Completed by the Provost

Evaluation Plan

The AGC Bylaws will be evaluated according to the next scheduled review of the Bylaws. This evaluation and review will include feedback from GRCC faculty members and College stakeholders, per the AGC Process for Decision Making.

Next scheduled review of AGC Bylaws: Academic Year 2025-26

Response from Provost

I received this AGC Decision Report on Thursday, July 25, 2024. I approve of the revised AGC Bylaws recommended by the AGC as outlined above. The revised Bylaws are effective as of the date of this decision (July 31, 2024). The AGC Executive committee is responsible for the implementation of the revised bylaws, including updating all appropriate web pages, documenting the revision history of the Bylaws to include this decision, holding elections as outlined above in the Implications for Actions section, and outlining a communication plan for implementing the revised Bylaws.



July 31, 2024