

MEMORANDUM

TO: Amal Khalifa, Chair  
Faculty Affairs Committee

FROM: Cigdem Z. Gurgur, Chair  
Senate Executive Committee

DATE: 10/16/2024

SUBJ: Charge to Formulate a Formal Recommendation on Director of Graduate Studies

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The revised Bylaws codify the status quo and therefore mandate that the Director of Graduate Studies is a member of the Voting Faculty. Abe Schwab is no longer a Voting Faculty and therefore, he is in violation of the Bylaws continuing to serve as the Director.

The working group responsible for the revised Bylaws denied Abe’s request to amend the Bylaws “on the fly” since they concluded that making such a change would go beyond a simple amendment but rather amount to a policy change, namely, a policy on who is eligible to serve as the Director. While the current policy is probably just precedent, Section VI.B.4.b of the Constitution (and therefore the Purdue Board of Trustees) states that the Faculty has the power to make a formal recommendation, that is, to present its judgment in writing, before the University reaches a decision concerning “the screening and selecting of academic or administrative officers.”

We therefore are charging FAC with developing such a written policy recommendation. We think that it should address obvious questions such as academic rank (tenured, yes/no), qualifications (has served as graduate faculty, yes/no), AY or FY appointment, FTE workload assignment, selection procedure (e.g., should Faculty produce a slate of candidates from whom to pick), period upward review cycle (yes/no), etc. And while we trust your judgment on this, we believe that the directors of all graduate programs at our University should be among those consulted. In light of its recommendation, FAC may also propose changes to the Bylaws.

It would be desirable to have the recommendation in time for the meeting of Senate in December 2024. As such, your written policy recommendation must reach us by Friday, November 15, the December Senate document deadline. The recommendation is meant to strengthen shared governance (as spelled out in the Constitution, Section VI.A), but is in no way intended to infringe on the right of the Chief Academic Officer to appoint the Director. So, we encourage FAC to work in close cooperation with OAA.

**Approved**

Kristin Barker  
Bernd Buldt  
Cigdem Gurgur  
Jay Johns  
James McHann  
Jeffrey Nowak  
Lee Roberts

**Non-Voting**

Craig Ortsey