

2025 SUNY ESF Academic Governance By-Law Change Summary

This document highlights the changes made to the Academic Governance by-laws for which the Academic Governance Executive Committee is now seeking full voting membership approval.

Section I. Organization

C. Past Executive Chair.

Old

The immediate Past Executive Chair will serve on the Executive Committee for one year immediately following their last term as chair. **In the event that the Executive Chair is unable to serve for more than one semester, the Past Executive Chair will serve as Acting Executive Chair until a special election can be held but not more than two semesters.** The Past Executive Chair shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee

New

The immediate Past Executive Chair will serve on the Executive Committee for one year immediately following their last term as chair. **In the event that the Executive Chair is unable to serve for more than one semester but not more than two semesters, the Past Executive Chair will serve as Acting Executive Chair until a special election can be held.** The Past Executive Chair shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.

D. Executive Chair.

Old

Biennially, in even-numbered years, the Membership **shall elect one** of its members to serve as Executive Chair who must be a member of the voting Membership. The **Executive Chair** shall: be the presiding officer at all meetings of Academic Governance, Chair of the Academic Governance Executive Committee, represent Academic Governance at the College Board of Trustees meetings, represent Academic Governance as a voting member of Academic Council, and exercise such other powers as are set forth in these by-laws. In the case of a brief absence of the **Executive Chair**, the Secretary shall act as Executive Chair. For their service to the College, the **Executive Chair** will receive a 25% administrative assignment in their workload allocation. The **Executive Chair** is limited to two consecutive terms, but individuals may be re-elected after a one term hiatus from the position.

New

Biennially, in even-numbered years, the Membership **shall elect one or two** of its members to serve as Executive Chair(s) from among the voting Membership. The **Executive Chair(s)** shall preside over meetings of Academic Governance, chair the Academic Governance Executive

Committee, represent Academic Governance at the College Board of Trustees meetings, represent Academic Governance as a voting member of Academic Council, and exercise other powers set forth in these by-laws. In the event of a brief absence of the Executive Chair(s), the Secretary shall act as Executive Chair. For their service to the College, the Executive Chair(s) will receive up to a 25% administrative assignment in their workload allocations. The Executive Chair(s) is limited to two consecutive terms, but individuals may be re-elected after a one-term hiatus from the position.

G. Academic Units.

Old

For the purposes of these Bylaws and Standing Rules, the Academic Units shall consist of those units on campus having academic offerings and associated faculty. The academic units are:

1. Chemical Engineering Department
2. Chemistry Department
3. Environmental Biology Department
4. Environmental Resources Engineering Department
5. Division of Environmental Science
6. Environmental Studies Department
7. Landscape Architecture Department
8. Library
9. Division of Interdisciplinary Programs
10. Open Academy
11. Sustainable Resources Management Department

New

For the purposes of these Bylaws and Standing Rules, the Academic Units shall consist of those units on campus having academic offerings and associated faculty as defined in the standing rules.

Section II. Committees

B. Academic Affairs

Old

This committee is charged with all matters of the College's instructional program. The committee shall assess the College curriculum; set standards for evaluating student academic performance and academic integrity; create, review and assess academic policies from matriculation through graduation; promote, support, and evaluate instructional quality; provide consultation in areas of academic technology and instructional spaces; review and consult on changes to academic programs, including creation and discontinuation of programs; and consult with ad hoc committees to review petitions, probations, academic suspensions, and dismissals.

New

This committee is charged with all matters of the College's instructional program. The committee shall review and approve the College curriculum; set standards for evaluating student academic performance and academic integrity; create, review and approve academic policies from matriculation through graduation; promote and support instructional quality, provide consultation in areas of academic technology and instructional spaces, review and consult on changes to academic programs, including creation and discontinuation of programs; and consult with ad hoc committees to review petitions, academic warnings, academic warnings, and dismissals.

C. Student Experience Committee

Old

This committee is charged with considering all matters affecting student life on campus. The committee shall provide consultation on policy directions and issues relating to students' co-curricular experiences, faculty-student-staff interactions, programs, and services throughout the college. These responsibilities may include, but are not limited to: considering and recommending policy or procedure changes that directly concern students; presenting Academic Governance with resolutions passed by Undergraduate and Graduate Student Associations; supporting and representing students and their needs for study, meeting, dining and socializing spaces; serving as a review body for ESF policy changes to the Student Handbook; acting as liaison on matters that pertain to the interface between athletics and instruction and; matters that pertain to the interface between ESF student housing and academic and student affairs. This committee will also organize the solicitation of nominations for recognition of exemplary students for the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

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Section III. Meetings

A. Regular Meetings

Old

Regular meetings shall be held each semester to carry out normal membership business on a schedule to be set by the Executive Committee. The Executive Chair shall distribute a schedule of these meetings to the Membership at the beginning of each semester. The Executive Chair will distribute an itemized agenda at least five (5) working days prior to each Academic Governance meeting. After consultation with the Chair of the Membership, the Executive Committee may cancel any regular meeting, **however** two consecutive meetings may not be cancelled. Regular meetings are open to the entire College community.

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Section V. Bylaws and Standing Rules Revisions.

B. Amendments to the Standing Rules

Old

Changes to the Academic Governance Standing Rules **require unanimous vote** of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will announce all changes to the Membership at the following regular meeting and they will be posted to the Academic Governance website. The Membership may call for a vote to endorse or retract any Standing Rules change made by the

Executive Committee at the meeting at which the change is announced. The Membership's vote will be binding.

New

Proposals for amendments to the Standing rules may be made by one of the members at a meeting of the Academic Governance Executive Committee. Changes to the Academic Governance Standing Rules require at least two-thirds approval vote of the members present.

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Section VI. Definitions

Academic staff

Old

The staff comprised of those persons having academic rank or qualified academic rank. (Policies of the Board of Trustees (SUNY). 1973, Article II)

New

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