

CAS Policy Committee
September 25, 2023
3:30–5:00 PM
Steering Committee 2:30–3:30 PM
Hybrid meeting

Meeting Agenda

1. Vote to approve minutes for meeting held on April 24, 2023 [attachment].
2. Update from Dean Robin Schulze.
3. Vote to approve new Policy Committee departmental representatives (term ending June 30, 2026):

APY Nicholas Holowka

CHE Andrew Murkin

CL Jackie Murray

COM David S. Lee

ENG Walter Hakala

GEO Enki Yoo

IDS Montgomery Hill

MTH Joseph Hundley

PHY Dejan Stojkovic

RLL Adrian Riccelli

Still waiting on ART and DMS to name their representatives.

4. Vote to approve new Policy Committee at-large representatives (term ending June 30, 2026):

EVS Swathi Karamcheti

GEO Stuart Evans

PHY William Kinney

5. Vote to approve the following alternate departmental representatives during the 2023-2024 academic year.

ENG Randy Schiff for Walter Hakala (Fall)

COL Andrea Pitts (Fall) and Elisabeth Paquette (Spring) for Shaun Irlam

MUS Thomas Kolor for Brian Moseley

CDS Chris Heffner for Alison Hendricks

6. Vote to approve continuing members of the Steering Committee Professors Barbara Wejnert (GGS) and Michael Rembis (HIS).
7. **Still need volunteers for the Steering Committee and a volunteer for the position of Vice-Chair, who agrees to serve as the Chair of the Policy Committee during the 2024-2025 academic year.** The relevant section of the Bylaws reads:

The Steering Committee shall recommend the agenda for each meeting of the Policy Committee, serve as the committee on committees, and carry out such other duties as the Policy Committee may assign. Its Chair shall be the Policy Committee Chair; its members shall be the Vice Chair of and seven members elected annually by and from the Policy Committee; no two shall be from the same unit.

Vote to approve appointments as necessary.

8. Vote to approve Professors Swathi Karamcheti (EVS), Liana Vardi (HIS), Sampson Blair (SOC), Sara Metcalf (GEO) for membership to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
9. Vote to approve new PhD Excellence Oversight Committee (PEOC) departmental representatives (term ending June 30, 2025):

ECO Yun Pei

HIS Robin Mitchell

10. Vote to approve continuing Budget Committee members (term ending June 30, 2024) Professors Cassandra Jacobs (LIN) and Debra Street (SOC).
11. Need volunteers to serve as the Policy Committee representative to the PhD Excellence Oversight Committee. Vote to approve appointment as necessary.
12. Discuss whether the Policy Committee needs to approve recommendations of the Committee on Awards and Recognition upon review of SPARC proposals due on October 1st. The Associate Dean for Research, Professor Ganapathy, requested that the following information be shared:

SPARC (Seed Projects in Arts and Sciences Research and Creative Activities) is a new annual funding initiative in the College which requires an interdisciplinary committee to review proposals; the existing CAS Awards Committee was recommended for this role as the CAS Associate Dean for Research already serves as *ex officio* member, supervises their review process, and their fall meeting schedule aligns with the SPARC proposal due date of October 1st. More information on the program is online

<https://arts-sciences.buffalo.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-staff-resources/research-information/sparc.html>

13. Discuss possibility of removing the “abstain” option from APT ballots. In comparison, PRB members are not allowed to abstain for tenure and promotion cases. The Dean

thinks abstentions may have negative connotations even if unintended, which may adversely affect the outcome of a case under review.

14. Discuss possibility of changing the requirement that a department have a formal policy, either in their bylaws or in their tenure-and-promotion requirements, regarding the stage at which a member of the APT from that department can participate in the discussion of and cast a vote on a tenure/promotion case from their department. (See [CAS Bylaws, Governance Procedures, Section 2a.](#))
15. Discuss possibility of revising the Budget Committee charge to clarify its responsibilities. (See [CAS Bylaws, Standing Orders, Section 2c.](#))
16. Introduce potential future agenda items:
 - a. Discuss the impact on CAS faculty and programs of the university administration's use of Academic Analytics performance metrics to guide resource allocation.
 - b. The Dean asked the Policy Committee to discuss ways to identify the needs of faculty to help associate professors move up the ranks to full professor.