

July 29, 2024

Update on Draft Policy of Policies

Dear Members of the Campus Community,

I have received valuable feedback on the draft Policy on Policies recently posted for community review. I also appreciate learning about the history behind the development of the original policy document.

My primary concern, which I would like to address with a potential revision, is to reduce the complexity of the process (and document) and address several significant gaps in the Institute's policies and procedures that currently exist.

However, I also do not want to create unnecessary angst in addressing these issues. To that end, let me be clear that it was not my intention to reduce the faculty's role in the shared governance of the Institute. In fact, the opposite.

The current policy overlooks faculty input in the so-called "Institute-wide policies," whereas the revised policy does not distinguish between the two and invites input from constituents across the campus, including various faculty committees and subcommittees for all policies. As a faculty member myself, I believe input from faculty colleagues in all policies may directly or indirectly impact the academic side of the campus.

I assumed it was clear in the revised document that policies (academic and non-academic) will go through the Faculty Senate approval review process, but we can certainly make that more explicit. Therefore, I have tasked Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Michael Jackson to incorporate, to the extent possible, all the comments from the campus community. If you have additional input, please do not hesitate to send it to him. He then will prepare a draft for discussion at your September Senate meeting.

Thank you for your continued engagement and collaboration.

Sincerely,
Mahyar