

BACKGROUND: The Policy and Planning Committee (PPC) asked the Lecturer Study Committee (which prepared a report on lecturers that was submitted in April 2018) to draft bylaws for a proposed Lecturers Advisory Committee (LAC). PPC asked the Lecturer Study Committee:

- “To describe what the LAC’s mandate will be. This should include a description of how LAC will engage with existing faculty governance structure (e.g., once-a-semester meetings with PPC, Standing Committee of Language Lecturers).
- To develop a proposal for the LAC leadership structure, including a process for selecting leaders.
- To devise a formula for selecting LAC members that retains proportionality, roughly, between language lecturers and lecturers in discipline, between divisions and schools, and between junior and senior lecturers.
- To develop, in cooperation with A&S administration, a procedure for canvassing candidates for election and for organizing the first election (afterwards, this would become the task of the LAC itself).”

The LAC would be added to A&S Faculty Committees already existing, listed at <https://fas.columbia.edu/home/about-faculty-arts-and-sciences/faculty-committees>:

- [Policy and Planning Committee](#)
- [Educational Policy and Planning Committee](#)
- [Promotion and Tenure Committee](#)
- [Academic Review Committee](#)
- [Standing Committee of Language Lecturers](#)
- [Committee on Equity and Diversity](#)
- [Junior Faculty Advisory Board](#)
- [Uris Vision Committee](#)

The LAC would be modeled on the Junior Faculty Advisory Board.

Below are the draft bylaws prepared by the Lecturer Study Committee. They will be submitted to the PPC, and once approved by PPC will be submitted to the A&S Executive Committee for approval, and will then go into effect, starting with an election.

PROPOSED BYLAWS

The Lecturers Advisory Committee (LAC) is one of the Faculty Committees within the Arts & Sciences (A&S), created to support Lecturers on the Arts & Sciences faculty in their relations with the University.

FUNCTIONS

- (1) The LAC serves as a standing forum in which lecturers who are members of the A&S faculty (as defined at <https://fas.columbia.edu/about-faculty-arts-and-sciences/faculty->

[committees/policy-and-planning-committee#tab¹](#)) can share and discuss their welfare and experiences, and to which lecturers may turn for peer advising and assistance.

- (2) The LAC represents lecturers' interests, articulates their concerns, and makes corresponding suggestions, in conversations with university administrators, other committees of faculty governance, the University Senate, and department/program chairs.
- (3) In conjunction with administrative offices, the LAC organizes events and provides web resources for lecturers so as to share information and experiences concerning all aspects of life at Columbia.
- (4) The LAC recommends amendments to these bylaws to the Policy and Planning Committee (PPC) and the Executive Committee of the Arts & Sciences.

PROCEDURES

- (1) The LAC will create its own procedures to consult widely among the community of lecturers in the Arts and Sciences at Columbia.
- (2) The LAC will meet on the schedule that it deems necessary for its work, but at least twice per semester.
- (3) The LAC or its officers will meet at least once per semester with the Policy and Planning Committee to report on lecturers' concerns and any other issues the LAC or the PPC wants to discuss.
- (4) The LAC or its officers will meet at least once per semester with the Executive Vice President for Arts & Sciences to report on lecturers' concerns and any other issues the LAC or the Executive Vice President want to discuss.
- (5) The LAC or its officers will be available to meet with the committee of the department chairs to discuss lecturers' concerns, at the invitation of that committee.

MEMBERSHIP, ELECTION, AND OFFICERS

- (1) The LAC will consist of thirteen members: seven from the humanities (among whom at least two will be language lecturers), two from social sciences, two from the natural sciences, and two from professional schools (ideally including one from the American Language Program and one from another program). Members must have passed their second-year review.
- (2) LAC members can be nominated by themselves or by other A&S faculty.
- (3) LAC members will be elected by electronic vote of all full-time lecturer-rank A&S faculty as defined in the A&S bylaws. The election of the first LAC will be conducted as soon as possible by the relevant A&S administrative office after the A&S Executive Committee's approval of these bylaws. Subsequent elections will be conducted in May of each year.
- (4) LAC members will serve terms of three years, counted from September 1 of a given year to August 31 of the following year. They can serve more than one term, but not consecutively. To the extent feasible, terms will be staggered. In order to achieve this, the first group of members will draw by lot terms of one, two, and three years. Those terms will not be deemed to have started until September 1, 2019.

¹ Currently this definition covers full-time lecturers with renewable appointments who have passed their second-year review.

- (5) At its first meeting the Committee will elect a chair and vice chair from among its members. Each shall serve a one year non-renewable term. Thereafter, the LAC will elect a vice chair at the beginning of the spring semester each year. The vice chair must be a member whose term extends for at least one year after serving as vice chair. The vice chair shall become the chair for the following year. In the event of a vacancy in either position, the members of the LAC shall elect a replacement from among the members to complete the remaining term. The replacement chair shall not be eligible to serve as chair in the following year.
- (6) The LAC will keep minutes of its meetings, which will be accessible to its members.