

UNL Bylaw explanation and proposed changes

Summary of Changes: We propose changes to Section 3.1.5.2 of UNL Bylaws, which outline “Other Responsibilities of the ARRC.” The overall change to this section entails identifying the ARRC as the duly elected faculty committee that will be consulted when an administrative officer is seeking to impose an immediate suspension on a member of the professional staff. This change is necessary to accommodate on the UNL campus the proposed revisions to BOR Bylaws pertaining to the new procedures for immediate suspensions of professional staff members as outlined in the proposed revisions to section 4.8 of BoR Bylaws. The ARRC is a logical committee to serve in this capacity. First, it is an existing elected committee that is already in place to quickly decide upon whether or not formal complaints filed with the ARRC are moved forward to a Special Committee (i.e., Academic Freedom Tenure, Grievance or Professional Conduct). Second, immediate suspensions will often come to the ARRC as an initial step before filing a formal ARRC complaint. As such, it makes sense to have the ARRC be charged with reviewing whether suspension before the convening of a Special Committee is appropriate.

To accomplish this we are proposing revisions to parts B and C of Section 3.1.5.2 of UNL Bylaws. We revised section B in two ways. First, what was the last sentence of this section is now the first sentence. Second, we removed the specific information about suspension in anticipation of dismissal as well as cancellation of speakers and speak only generally about policies and processes concerned with academic freedom. Then, we added a new part C to explicitly identify the ARRC as the duly elected faculty committee that will review Immediate Suspensions. The remaining alphabetic ordering in Section 3.1.5.2 is simply adjusted to accommodate adding a new part C.

All proposed changes to UNL Bylaws are highlighted below using track-changes of the current UNL Bylaws:

3.1.5 Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee. The Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee (ARRC) and its responsibilities are created by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Senate as required by the University of Nebraska Regents Bylaws and are approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. The ARRC has significant responsibility in ensuring that faculty members and administrators are appropriately apprised of rights, responsibilities, principles and procedures pertaining to matters of professional relationships.

3.1.5.1 The ARRC has primary responsibility to ensure and to arrange an appropriate investigation or hearing when concerns or problems arise between a faculty member and the university and/or when problems related to academic freedom and tenure, professional conduct, and other grievances occur in the professional relationships among faculty members and others in the University community, as stated in the ARRC Syllabus and the Bylaws of the Board of Regents.

3.1.5.2 Other Responsibilities of the ARRC.

A. To determine whether and to what extent recommendations of Special Committees convened by the chair of ARRC to hear particular cases have been acted upon, and to report on the status of ARRC cases to the President of the Faculty Senate;

B. To act with respect to matters of general policies concerning academic freedom and tenure; To provide for an effective process in representing the academic rights and responsibilities of the faculty; ~~but not limited to, those related to suspension in anticipation of dismissal and cancellation of presentations by properly invited speakers;~~ ~~To act with respect to matters of general policies concerning academic freedom and tenure;~~

C. To serve as the informal inquiry committee under procedures outlined in Board of Regent Bylaws section 4.8 when an administrative officer is seeking to impose an immediate suspension of a professional staff member;

~~D. C.~~ To recommend actions to appropriate bodies in order to ensure academic rights and responsibilities of faculty members;

~~E. D.~~ To communicate to all members of the University community appropriate channels for conveying and dealing with concerns about actual or perceived violations of faculty rights and responsibilities;

~~F. E.~~ To propose to the Faculty Senate changes in operating procedures and guidelines for each of the Special Committees in accord with relevant provisions of the Bylaws of the Board of Regents;

~~G. F.~~ To submit committee minutes and make an annual report to the Faculty Senate, while maintaining confidentiality concerning individual cases.