Justification for Revisions to Bylaw 155: University Committee on Computing and Technology

Changes in the technology environment, a lack of proactive engagement, and low member meeting attendance have cast doubt on the continuing relevance of the charge to the University Committee on Computing and Communications (UCCC). In spring 2012, UCOC endorsed an Academic Council recommendation to disband UCCC. However, Academic Assembly decided against dissolving it, voting instead to refer it back to Council with instructions to “consider the formation of an information technology committee as an alternative to UCCC.” Despite Council’s efforts to revitalize the existing committee, a proactive UCCC has not emerged. The University Committee on Committees (UCOC) has therefore proposed the following revisions of UCCC’s bylaws in order to enlarge, revitalize, and refocus this important Senate standing committee.

UCCC was created at a time computers were not as ubiquitous in academic life and work as they are now. UCOC feels the time is right to refocus this committee away from pure technology issues and directly into all aspects of academic computing and communication. Therefore, this committee’s enlarged oversight would include matters of academic policy concerning online education, instructional technology, and academic computing, ensuring that technology is appropriate for maintaining the academic quality of UC online courses and instructional technology, as well as the outreach and research mission. UCOC members also feel strongly that it is important to insert “academic” into the actual name of the committee, thereby changing the name to the “University Committee on Academic Computing and Communications” (UCACC). Although the UCACC reports to the Assembly and other agencies of the Senate, this name change is also reflective of the enlargement of consultation with the administration; UCACC would now be charged with consulting with the Provost and Executive Vice President, and not only the President.

Over the past decade, and especially during the last couple of years, the importance of online education has also increased. The activity in this area has occupied a number of standing committees, but especially the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP). As a committee concerned with technology, UCCC is well placed to take on policies pertaining to online education, and issues associated with quality assurance of online courses and academic technology. Although undergraduate education has dominated online education up to this point, it is likely that online education will continue to make inroads into graduate education. Therefore, UCOC recommends that UCACC advise, collaborate, and coordinate with UCEP and CCGA to provide continuing review of programs and policies pertaining to online education, as well as issues associated with quality assurance of online courses and academic technology. Therefore, UCOC adds the chairs of CCGA and UCEP to sit on this committee as ex-officio
members.\(^1\) This ensures integration within the Senate’s structure of standing committees. In addition, these chairs sit on Academic Council, which will encourage regular reporting to that body.

Due in part to the multi-faceted nature of this committee, UCOC intends that its membership be drawn from a diverse number of sources. UCOC recommends that committee members be drawn from the divisional Senate standing committee of the division’s choosing. Members may also be named as ex-officio non-voting members of Divisional standing Senate committees. This arrangement will increase the information exchange between the systemwide committee and the local technology committee, even if the divisional member of UCACC is not a member of the corresponding local technology committee.

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\(^1\) The Chair of the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) is already an ex-officio member.
Bylaw 155 (existing)
155. Computing and Communications [formerly Bylaw 181 - Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy (Am 30 Jan 2008)]

A. Membership shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 128 and shall include the Chair of the Library Committee who shall serve as ex officio member. One undergraduate student and one graduate student shall sit with the Committee. [See Bylaw 128.E.] The Vice Chair shall be chosen in accordance with the Bylaw 128.D.2. and 3. (Am 7 May 87; Am 28 May 2003)

B. Duties: The Committee shall represent the Senate in all matters involving the uses and impact of computing and communications technology, and shall advise the President, consistent with Bylaw 40, concerning the acquisition and usage, and support of computing and communications technology and related policy issues at the University either at its own initiative or at the President's request. (Am 7 May 87; Am 28 May 2003; Am 30 Jan 2008)

Proposed revised Bylaw 155 (redline)

155. Academic Computing and Communications [formerly Bylaw 181 - Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy (Am 30 Jan 2008)]

A. Membership shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 128 and shall include the Chair of the Committee on Libraries and Scholarly Communication Committee, Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs, and the University Committee on Educational Policy, or their designees, who shall serve as ex officio members. One undergraduate student and one graduate student shall sit with the Committee. [See Bylaw 128.E.] The Vice Chair shall be chosen in accordance with the Bylaw 128.D.2 and 3. Committee members shall be drawn from a Divisional standing committee with jurisdiction over related matters. Members may also be named as ex officio non-voting members of Divisional standing Senate committees per Bylaw 128B. (Am 7 May 87; Am 28 May 2003)

B. Duties: Consistent with Bylaw 40, the Committee shall:

1. Represent the Senate in all matters related to the uses and impact of academic computing and communications technology - including, but not limited to, online education, computing infrastructure, security, privacy, analytics, and intellectual property as they pertain to the University’s academic mission.
2. **The committee shall consult with and advise the President, consistent with Bylaw 40** render timely advice to the agencies of the Academic Senate and to the President, the Provost, and the Executive Vice President** render timely advice to the agencies of the Academic Senate and to the President, the Provost, and the Executive Vice President** **consistent with Bylaw 40, concerning the acquisition and usage, deployment, and support of computing and communications technologies** policy issues either at its own initiative or at the President's request. (Am 7 May 87; Am 28 May 2003; Am 30 Jan 2008).

3. **Consult with representatives of the relevant standing committees and the Chair of the Academic Council to identify policy issues related to computing and communications technology that affect the academic mission of the University, including quality assurance of online courses and academic technology.**

4. **Consult with the Provost and Executive Vice President in matters of academic policy and infrastructure related to online education, instructional technology, and academic computing to ensure that technology is appropriate for maintaining the academic quality of UC as well as the outreach and research mission.**

5. **Submit an annual report to Academic Council on all matters concerning academic computing within its jurisdiction.**

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Proposed revised Bylaw 155 (clean)

**155. Academic Computing and Communications** [formerly Bylaw 181 - Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy (Am 30 Jan 2008)]

A. Membership shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 128 and shall include the Chairs of the Committee on Libraries and Scholarly Communication, Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs, and the University Committee on Educational Policy, or their designees, who shall serve as ex officio members. One undergraduate student and one graduate student shall sit with the Committee. [See Bylaw 128.E.] The Vice Chair shall be chosen in accordance with Bylaw 128.D.2 and 3. Committee members shall be drawn from a Divisional standing committee with jurisdiction over related matters. Members may also be named as ex officio non-voting members of Divisional standing Senate committees per Bylaw 128B. (Am 7 May 87; Am 28 May 2003)

B. Duties: Consistent with Bylaw 40, the Committee shall:

1. Represent the Senate in all matters related to the uses and impact of academic computing and communications technology - including, but not limited to, online
education, computing infrastructure, security, privacy, analytics, and intellectual property as they pertain to the University’s academic mission.

2. The committee shall consult with and render timely advice to the agencies of the Academic Senate and to the President, the Provost, and the Executive Vice President concerning the acquisition, deployment, and support of computing and communications technologies and related academic and technology policy issues either at its own initiative or at the President's request. (Am 7 May 87; Am 28 May 2003; Am 30 Jan 2008).

3. Consult with representatives of the relevant standing committees and the Chair of the Academic Council to identify policy issues related to computing and communications technology that affect the academic mission of the University.

4. Consult with the Provost and Executive Vice President in matters of academic policy and infrastructure related to online education, instructional technology, and academic computing to ensure that technology is appropriate for maintaining the academic quality of UC as well as the outreach and research mission.

5. Submit an annual report to Academic Council on all matters concerning academic computing within its jurisdiction.