

**Resolution 2025-07 On Supporting Faculty Leadership in Senate Standing Committees
From the Arts & Sciences Senate Executive Committee**

May 12, 2025

Whereas, shared governance is a foundational principle of academic institutions and essential to the effective functioning of a public institution like our University;

Whereas, the work of the Senate and its standing committees plays a central role in maintaining high institutional standards through curricular rigor, faculty success, and policy and programming support for the University;

Whereas, several Senate standing committees – including but not limited to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the Promotion and Tenure Committee – require sustained, high-level engagement by faculty members, with chairs often committing up to ten hours per week during the academic year and often additional work during intersessions;

Whereas, faculty who serve as chairs of these committees, particularly those on contingent appointments with high teaching loads, often do so voluntarily, taking significant professional and personal burdens;

Whereas, the university has struggled to recruit faculty leadership for these essential roles, threatening the sustainability and effectiveness of shared governance;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Arts and Sciences Senate recommends that the University Administration pilot a program offering **a one-course teaching release** per academic year to faculty who serve as chairs of Senate standing committees with the highest time commitments, in consultation with the University Senate;

Be it further resolved that this pilot program prioritize chairs of committees with the highest weekly workload demands and year-round responsibilities, and that its implementation be reviewed after two years to assess its effectiveness in encouraging faculty leadership and strengthening shared governance;

Be it finally resolved that the University Senate collaborate with the University Administration to define criteria for inclusion in the pilot and develop a fair and transparent process for implementing this policy.

Arts and Sciences Senate
[date]