

The following is a list of recommended contents for the bylaws of academic departments. The list is not exhaustive, and individual departments may choose to add or subtract from this list. Departments should avoid attempting to replicate or conflict with existing university policies or the MSP Collective Bargaining Agreement

Recommended Contents of Academic Department Bylaws

1. Name & college home. Acknowledgment that federal and state laws, UMass Trustee policies, the CBA, and other established university policies shall prevail in instances of conflict with these bylaws.
 - Faculty membership, voting rights, privileges, and responsibilities within each group if not common to all sub-groups
 - General rights, privileges, and responsibilities of faculty on leave (family leave, leave without pay, parental leave, sabbatical leave, sick leave)
2. Committees:
 - Standing committees: names (examples: curriculum, DPC, diversity, executive, faculty development, graduate admissions, research, space, student affairs,), purview of each, size, eligibility requirements for service (such as rank or tenure status), composition, *ex officio* membership, means of constituting, selection of committee leadership, frequency of meetings, quorum necessary to conduct business, voting rights of members, manner of voting (proxy votes, electronic votes, voice votes, written secret votes), advance notice, agendas, minutes & record-keeping/retention.
 - Ad hoc search committees: eligibility requirements for service (such as rank or tenure status), composition, means of constituting, selection of committee leadership, quorum necessary to conduct business, manner of voting (proxy votes, electronic votes, voice votes, written secret votes), minutes & record-keeping/retention, interaction with department chair/head and department faculty.
 - Other ad hoc committees: composition, means of constituting
 - Representation by department members on college- or university-level committees (example: CPC): means of selection
 - Student participation in committees (if any): means of selection, voting rights (if any), access to confidential information
3. Department meetings: frequency, quorum necessary to conduct business, rules of order, voting rights of members, manner of voting (proxy votes, electronic votes, voice votes, written secret votes), sufficiency of vote for action, advance notice of meetings, agendas, minutes & record-keeping/retention, expectations for faculty participation, means by which individual faculty may request department meetings.
4. Search procedures beyond the search committee: participation of faculty and students in search process, faculty access to candidates' application materials, faculty deliberation over and voting on ranking of finalists, confidentiality requirements, disclosing and managing real or perceived conflicts of interest including circumstances under which faculty should recuse themselves from deliberation and voting on candidates.

5. Reappointment, promotion & tenure:
 - External & internal reviews: standards for identifying and soliciting external reviews (where applicable, including the number of “arm’s-length” and of “close” reviewers, the timing of solicitation, the qualifications required for reviewers), solicitation of internal reviews (if any), confidentiality requirements.
 - Methods for the evaluation of teaching effectiveness in the department: acceptable forms of evidence (such as SRTIs and/or another instrument, peer evaluation, testimonials to mentoring/advising effectiveness, teaching portfolios, development of curricular materials, variations depending upon assigned duties).
 - Methods for the evaluation of service: acceptable forms of evidence of service contributions (professional societies, governance bodies and member/leadership roles, committee work, community engagement, union work), evidence of leadership accomplishments in service contributions.
6. Implementation of these bylaws: effective date, extent to which they supersede existing policies or practices, grand-parenting provisions (if any)
7. Amendment of these bylaws: procedures for amending, sufficiency of vote for passage of amendments