

University Senate

Proposed: April 5, 2019

Adopted: April 5, 2019
by voice vote with one abstention

RESOLUTION TO CREATE OR REVISE BY-LAWS
FOR ALL COLUMBIA ACADEMIC UNITS

WHEREAS the academic mission of this great university is mainly pursued away from the core, in 14 schools and dozens of departments, institutes and centers, and

WHEREAS Columbia University is therefore in large measure a dispersed and decentralized academic polity, with major variations among campuses and schools in culture and governance, and

WHEREAS in such complex intellectual terrain it is vital to be able to see all the way across, and to retain the assurance that all of these academic units share a few essential principles, and a core of common practices and procedures in the development and management of academic programs and the appointment and promotion of faculty, and

WHEREAS it is essential that all faculty members of every school, department, division, institute, or center have ready access to a document that lays out these core principles and practices, as well as their own rights and responsibilities, and any compatible variations in rules and procedures that characterize their own academic unit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate call on all Columbia academic units, including schools, departments, divisions, centers, and institutes, to produce by-laws if they do not exist, or, if they do, to review and revise them at regular intervals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate maintain a collection of these by-laws and related documents in a single online location available to everyone in the Columbia community.

Proponent: Faculty Affairs Committee