

**From:** [President Peter Salovey](#)  
**To:** [Members of the Yale College Faculty Meeting](#)  
**Subject:** Ad Hoc Committee for FAS Senate Planning  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 2:15:25 PM

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To: Members of the Yale College Faculty Meetings  
From: President Peter Salovey  
Re: Ad Hoc Committee for FAS Senate Planning

At a special FAS faculty meeting on December 9, 2013, the FAS ladder faculty voted to recommend to me the establishment of an FAS senate. They further recommended that I appoint an ad hoc committee charged with preparing a detailed plan for the structure, staffing, and rules of the new senate, to be presented to the FAS ladder faculty for a vote no later than December 2014. I write today to update you on steps that have been taken since I accepted these recommendations on December 10, 2013.

I am pleased to announce that I have appointed the ad hoc committee for FAS senate planning. As I explained in my message of December 10, I have sought to appoint a committee that is broadly representative of the FAS faculty across divisions and career stages. The committee includes individuals who were nominated by fellow members of the FAS faculty. It contains a non-ladder member of the FAS faculty, members with a long-standing interest in faculty governance issues, and some for whom the idea of a faculty senate has not been a central priority or focus.

Its membership is as follows:

Steven Wilkinson, Nilekani Professor of Indian and South Asian Studies  
(committee chair)  
Jay Emerson, Associate Professor (Adjunct) and DGS of Statistics  
Kirk Freudenburg, Professor and Chair of Classics  
Beverly Gage, Professor and DUS of History  
Valerie Horsley, Maxine F. Singer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Molecular,  
Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Nuno Monteiro, Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Mark Saltzman, Goizueta Foundation Professor of Chemical and Biomedical  
Engineering and Chair of Biomedical Engineering  
Paul Tipton, Professor and Chair of Physics  
Katie Trumpener, Emily Sanford Professor of Comparative Literature and English  
Meg Urry, Israel Munson Professor of Physics and Astronomy  
Ebonya Washington, Professor of Economics

Martha Highsmith, senior advisor to the president, will staff the committee.

To prepare its plan for the structure, staffing and rules of the Yale FAS faculty senate, the committee will consider the organization, processes, and procedures in place at other universities that have faculty senates and use this research to inform its recommendations. The plan will need to give detailed attention to the size of the FAS faculty senate, mechanisms for election of its members, and staffing and administrative operations. It will consider how the senate should interact most effectively with the provost, deans, Yale College Faculty Meeting, Joint Board of Permanent Officers, and other aspects of FAS governance. The committee is asked to consider the many existing demands on faculty members' time

(assemblies, committees, and other meetings) and, in consultation with members of the administration, make recommendations for reducing unnecessary burden and eliminating duplication of effort.

In keeping with the recommendations of the ad hoc committee on FAS faculty input, I ask that the committee complete its report for a vote by the FAS faculty no later than December 2014. This committee's work along the way will be presented to the FAS faculty for feedback so that comments gathered can inform the recommendation.

I am grateful to the eleven members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences who have agreed to serve in this important capacity.