

**BYLAWS OF THE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES**<sup>1</sup>  
**UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE**

**Mission Statement**

In accordance with the goals set forth by the University of Delaware and the College of Health Sciences, it is the mission of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences to:

- Provide excellent undergraduate professional education in the Clinical Laboratory Sciences,
- Contribute to the health sciences body of knowledge through basic and clinical research, and
- Function as an expert resource within the University community and the mid-Atlantic region regarding all issues related to Clinical Laboratory Science.

**I. The Faculty**

The faculty of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences shall be comprised of all full-time tenure track and continuing non-tenure track faculty, secondary faculty, temporary faculty, and adjunct faculty. Adjunct faculty from outside the University will contribute to the intellectual, scholarly and service activities of the Department, but shall not have voting rights within the Department.

**II. Department Chairperson**

The Department Chairperson is appointed according to the appropriate regulations of the University. The duties of the Chairperson are described in the University of Delaware Policy Guide for Department Chairs and Academic Program Directors (<http://www.udel.edu/provost/chr-ad/duties.html>).

The Department Chairperson, or the Chairperson's representative, shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Promotion and Tenure Committee, shall be notified of all committee meetings, and shall receive all committee reports.

The Department Chairperson, or someone appointed by the Chairperson, shall preside over faculty meetings and committees as given below.

**III. Department Meetings**

The faculty shall meet at least three times a semester. Special meetings are called either by the Department Chairperson or at the request of three voting members of the Department. Written notice of special meetings shall be given to the faculty no less than seventy-two (72) hours (excluding Saturdays and Sundays) in advance. Whenever possible, one week's notice should be given. The notice of a special meeting shall designate the purpose(s) of the meeting. No business shall be transacted other than that specified in the notice.

All full-time tenure track and continuing non-tenure track faculty, temporary faculty, secondary faculty, salaried staff, and adjunct faculty are entitled to attend the departmental meetings.

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<sup>1</sup> These Bylaws are guidelines for the internal operation of the Department. All departmental decisions must be consistent with University policy.

**Quorum:** Fifty percent of the voting faculty in residence shall constitute a quorum.

**Agenda:** The Department Chairperson shall prepare the basic agenda. The Chairperson will add appropriate items that may be submitted by any member of the faculty. Such items must be submitted in writing no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled meeting. The agenda will be circulated to the faculty at least one day before the scheduled meeting. Other items may be discussed at the Department meeting but may not receive final action during that meeting.

Final action may be taken on any item on the agenda by a majority vote of those present and voting. If the majority vote on any issue is less in number than a majority of those in residence, any voting member of the Department can move to reconsider. If the motion to reconsider is seconded, the item will be placed first on the agenda for the next meeting. The vote at the latter meeting will be final. The faculty may not reconsider motions, on which final action has been taken, unless (1) at least six months have elapsed from the time of final action or (2) a motion to reconsider the item is approved by a two-thirds vote of the faculty present (presuming a quorum).

**Voting Eligibility:** Full-time tenure track and continuing non-tenure track faculty, full-time temporary faculty, and secondary faculty are voting members of the Department. Adjunct faculty, part-time temporary faculty, and salaried staff are non-voting members of the Department.

E-mail ballots are acceptable. A secret ballot must be taken if requested by a member.

**Conduct of Business:** All business of the Department shall be governed by the principles of Robert's Rules of Order unless a motion is made to suspend such rules.

**Department Meetings' Recorder and Minutes:** The Department Chairperson will appoint a recorder. A record of each Department meeting shall be prepared and distributed to each Department member and the Chairperson within two weeks of the meeting reported. A permanent copy of Department meeting minutes shall be filed in the Chairperson's office.

#### **IV. Standing Committees of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences**

**General Functions:** The functions of the Department Committees are: (1) to investigate, advise and recommend regarding designated areas; (2) to carry out assigned duties; and (3) to report to the faculty and Department Chairperson.

**Standing Committees:** Departmental policy and program implementation shall be developed by the faculty and executed through the action of various standing committees. The following are the standing committees of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences:

- Promotion and Tenure
- Undergraduate Program
- Safety
- Library Liaison

**Selection of Members:** Those Committees whose membership and selection are not specified herein will be appointed by the Department Chairperson who will notify the department of the membership and chairs of all Committees. Committee appointments shall be made from the faculty annually in the spring to take office September 1 unless otherwise specified. The P & T Committee will assume appointments effective March 15. All committees shall maintain appropriate records of their discussions and decisions and shall report periodically to the faculty, either orally or in writing. Each Committee shall present at least one oral report and submit a written annual report to the faculty.

Procedures:

- a. The Department Chairperson may delegate certain decision-making powers to the committees, but these committees will primarily make recommendations. Such recommendations shall come to the faculty as motions, seconded and voted upon.
- b. The chairperson of a standing committee shall serve for a renewable term of two years.
- c. A majority of committee members must be present for major action to be taken on matters that are to be brought before the Department.
- d. All committee members, including the chairperson, shall have voting powers.
- e. Minutes of meetings shall be prepared and distributed to each committee member within two weeks of the meeting. A Department copy will be available to other Department members.
- f. If the Department Chairperson alters any committee decision, that group must be notified, in writing, within ten days.

*Promotion and Tenure Committee*

The Chairperson of the Department shall see that the Department Promotion and Tenure Committee is assembled in a timely manner. Committee members from within the Department will be elected by the Department faculty. If a sufficient number of members are not available from within the Department, the remaining committee members will be elected by the faculty in consultation with the Chairperson of the Department. The committee will have three members, at least two of whom are tenured faculty. The majority of the committee must be at a rank higher than the current rank of the candidate. In order to operate within these guidelines, it may be necessary to select members from units outside of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences from kindred disciplines such as Nursing, Physical Therapy, Biology, etc. At such time that the number of tenured faculty in the Department exceeds three, all members of the faculty at the next higher rank(s) (i.e., all Associate and Full Professors for Assistant Professors; all Full Professors for Associate Professors) will constitute the Department Promotion and Tenure Committee. The chairperson of the committee, as appointed by the Department Chairperson, shall be a tenured faculty member in the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences at or above the rank for which the candidate has applied. In the event that a tenured faculty member in the Department is not available to serve in this capacity, the chairperson will be selected from a kindred discipline.

Functions:

- a. To conduct a periodic review of tenure-track and continuing non-tenure track faculty in accordance with the guidelines specified in the University's Handbook for Faculty, Section III, Personnel Policies for Faculty.
- b. To advise the candidate in the preparation of credentials and to solicit letters of evaluation from peer reviewers as required.
- c. To review the candidate's dossier and to prepare an objective written evaluation of the dossier for transmission to the Department Chairperson and the candidate.

*Undergraduate Program Committee*

The committee, comprised of four members, will be appointed by the Department Chairperson and will include at least one full-time faculty member and at least one secondary faculty member. The Department Chairperson will appoint the committee chairperson. The committee members will be appointed to three-year renewable terms.

Functions:

- a. To implement and suggest revisions to departmental policy guidelines for undergraduate affairs.
- b. To consider proposals for curricular changes in the undergraduate degree programs and make recommendations to the faculty.
- c. To administer the Departmental undergraduate grievance policy.
- d. To make recommendations for the selection of students into the junior year of the Medical Laboratory Science major.
- e. To administer the Departmental Honors Program.

*Safety Committee*

The committee, comprised of three members, will be appointed by the Department Chairperson and will include one student member.. The Department Chairperson will appoint the committee chairperson from department members. The department committee members will be appointed to three-year renewable terms and the student member to a one-year renewable term.

Functions:

- a. Provide for training under the State of Delaware Right-to-Know law and the OSHA-mandated Chemical Hygiene Plan.

- b. Provide training for the University of Delaware Bloodborne Pathogen Program.
- c. Carry out safety inspections of all teaching laboratories, all research laboratories, and departmental offices according to University policy.
- d. Initiate such changes in Departmental policy and practice as might promote safety.

#### *Library Liaison*

The Library Liaison committee consists of one full-time faculty member appointed annually by the Department Chairperson. The Library Liaison functions as a liaison between the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences faculty and the University of Delaware Library. The liaison will make recommendations concerning journal acquisitions and cancellations and databases. In addition, the liaison will transmit information to the faculty as the Library announces it.

#### *Ad Hoc Committees*

The Department Chairperson may form ad hoc committees for a specific purpose and will charge these committees with specific duties. The faculty will be notified of the charge and membership of special committees. These committees shall be dissolved upon acceptance of a final report.

### **V. Amendments**

A department committee or any voting member may propose amendments to these bylaws. The proposed changes must be distributed in writing to the faculty at least one week before a departmental meeting. Adoption of changes will require approval by at least two-thirds of the faculty.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Faculty and Professional Staff, October 27, 1994.

Amended by Faculty and Professional Staff, May 16, 1995.

Amended by Faculty and Professional Staff, February 19, 1998.

Amended by Faculty and Professional Staff, June 17, 2003.

Amended by Faculty and Professional Staff, September 15, 2011.

Amended by Faculty, November 10, 2011.

Updated to Reflect Change in Department Name, September 11, 2012