

Faculty Senate Agenda Item

Number 09-09

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Faculty Constitution Clarifying Faculty Representation

DESCRIPTION: The electoral committee, redoing faculty counts to determine representation for each unit this past semester, came across a problem relating to the existing wording of the constitution: eligible faculty are defined as those “on an annual contract” only, without specifying anything further. In II B, the number of “eligible faculty” determines the proportions of representation (which means that we fix it both places by fixing it here). In the case of the School of Nursing, how one counted part-time appointments was the issue. Are they eligible faculty or not? Given hiring patterns in the wake of the budget crisis, it is likely not only Nursing for whom this will be a problem. So the constitution must be made more specific. We can go two ways on this one: making eligibility and proportionality counts include only full-time faculty or also count part-time (down to half-time in the proposal below). One of the two following amendments should be moved for a vote (changes indicated in boldface):

RECOMMENDATION:

Current Language:

II. ELIGIBILITY AND MEMBERSHIP

- A. Only faculty on an annual contract are eligible to vote for and to serve on the Faculty Senate, excluding those serving more than half time in administrative capacities; provided, however, faculty on authorized leave of absence or sabbatical shall not be eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate during such period of leave or sabbatical. Any eligible faculty member may put his or her name forward for election.

Proposed Change:

A. Faculty Eligibility:

Only *full-time* faculty on an annual contract are eligible to vote for and to serve on the Faculty Senate *excluding* those faculty serving more than half time in administrative capacities *and* faculty on *authorized leave of absence or sabbatical during such period of leave*. Any eligible faculty member may put his or her name forward for election.

Current Language:

- B. The School of Law, School of Business, School of Applied Studies, School of Nursing, and each division within the College of Arts and Sciences shall elect representatives to the Faculty Senate in proportion to the number of eligible faculty in each unit, with one senator selected to represent each ten faculty members (that number to be rounded up or down to the nearest figure in each voting unit). Representation will be based on the number of faculty in each unit at the start of the spring semester.

Proposed Change:

B. Representation:

The School of Law, School of Business, School of Applied Studies, School of Nursing, and each division within the College of Arts and Sciences shall elect representatives to the Faculty Senate in proportion to the *number of faculty* in each unit, with one senator selected to represent each ten faculty members in each unit. ***The number of faculty in each unit shall include all faculty on annual contract. However, part-time faculty at the level of half-time or more (excluding adjuncts) will be counted at a rate of ½ faculty position per person, in order to determine senate representation.*** (The number of faculty in each unit **will** be rounded up or down to the nearest figure in each voting unit). Representation will be based on the number of faculty in each unit at the start of the spring semester.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None

REQUESTED ACTION: Faculty Senate Approval

Date: September 14, 2009

Originated by: Thomas Prasch
Faculty Senate President