Motion on the Composition of the Faculty Senate
Proposed to the Faculty Senate on 9-15-09 by the ad hoc Committee on Faculty Governance

The attached motion asks that the By-Laws be amended to change the composition of the Faculty Senate. Currently, each academic department and the Library elect at least one senator, and then an additional senator for each ten faculty after the first faculty member. Fifteen at-large senators are elected by the faculty as a whole.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance has been studying our faculty governance system and considering reforms that could make it more effective. The Committee concluded that a smaller Senate with at-large members elected by school would be both more responsive to faculty concerns and more effective at giving those concerns a voice in the governance of the institution. Our full report, which includes a more detailed discussion of the composition of our and other faculty Senates, is being made available on the Senate website.

The attached motion would create a Senate of 50 members, apportioned according to the percentage of faculty in each school. There would be with one senator from each academic department, with the remainder of a school’s senators elected at-large, by faculty in that school.

Amend Article IV, Section 2, of the By-Laws (concerning the Faculty Senate) as follows:

Section 2. Composition and Election

A. Composition. There shall be 50 Faculty Senators, apportioned by the percentage of faculty in each school (including the Library). There shall be one senator elected by each academic department and the Library, with the remainder of a school’s senators elected at-large by the faculty in that school.

A. B. Eligibility. A Faculty Senator must be a full-time tenured or tenure-track employee of the College who has completed at least three years of service at the College, and who normally teaches at least six contact hours per semester or the equivalent in assigned research or who is a full-time instructor, Senior Instructor, or professional librarian. Department Chairs, regardless of their teaching loads, are eligible to serve as Faculty Senators. (Approved April 2005) Administrators, including Deans of Schools and the Dean of Libraries, are not eligible to serve as Faculty Senators. Faculty members on leave are not eligible to serve as Faculty Senators.

B. C. The President of the College, the Provost, a student representing the Student Government Association, and the Faculty Secretary are non-voting ex-officio members of the Faculty Senate.

C. D. Election

1. All and only regular faculty members as defined under provisions (1), (2), and (3) of Article I Section 1 are eligible to vote in Senate elections.
2. No later than February 15, vacancies from the group of at-large Senate seats will be filled by means of an election conducted among the eligible faculty of each school (as defined in Section 1 above) through an electronic ballot. Candidates for the at-large Senate seats are nominated by February 1 by the Committee on Nominations and Elections or by nomination or self-nomination. By February 1, the deans of each school will forward to the Committee on Nominations and Elections a slate of candidates (which shall be open to self-nominations) for the at-large Senate seats in that school. The candidates receiving the most votes cast in this election shall be elected to the at-large seats. Any tie shall be decided by lot.

3. No later than March 15, each of the academic departments and Library will elect its Senator(s) from among its eligible members (as defined in Section 2A above). Units with one to ten eligible voters (as defined in Section 2C.1 above) elect one Senator; units with eleven to twenty eligible voters elect two Senators, and so on by increments of ten.

4. The Committee on Nominations and Elections shall oversee all Senate elections (verifying Senate apportionment and voter eligibility; constructing, distributing, collecting and validating ballots; and certifying results).

5. All elections for at-large Senate seats shall be conducted by secret electronic ballot. Upon the receipt of a vote, the Committee on Nominations and Elections shall ensure that the vote was cast by an eligible voter. In case of a tie vote, the election is decided by lot.

6. A candidate for the position of Speaker cannot be a candidate for an at-large senate seat in the same election. In the event that a candidate for Speaker is in the middle of a term as an at-large senator and wins the election for Speaker, of those unsuccessful in the election for at-large seats, the person obtaining the most votes will complete the second year of the Speaker-elect’s term.

Amend Article IV, Section 2, F as follows:

F. Vacancies due to resignation, recall or any other reason may be filled by a special election by the appropriate electorate. Senators elected in such special elections will serve out the term of the Senators they replace. If an at-Large Senator needs to be replaced, the faculty of that school shall elect the replacement by ballot. The Committee on Nominations will provide a slate of at least two candidates circulated to the faculty at least two weeks before the election. Additional nominations from the faculty may be sent to the Chair of the Committee on Nominations and Elections at least one week before the election. No Senator, including replacement Senators, shall serve for more than four consecutive years. (Rev. Jan. 2007, April 2007; Ins. April 2007)

Amend Article IV, Section 3, B.1.c (concerning the Committee on Nominations and Elections) as follows:

c. Duties:
(1) To nominate for the offices of Speaker of the Faculty and Faculty Secretary, for the fifteen at-large Senate seats, and for membership on all standing and *ad-hoc* committees of the Faculty Senate and of the College;

(2) To fill all vacancies through nomination or appointment which may occur on any committee;

(3) To present to Senators, in writing, its slate of candidates for standing Senate committees at least 15 days prior to the April Senate meeting;

(4) To present to members of the faculty, in writing, its slate of candidates for standing College committees and five faculty for the College Honor Board by March 15;

(5) To present to members of the faculty, in writing, its slate of candidates for the offices of Speaker of the Faculty and Faculty Secretary by February 1;

(6) To present to members of the faculty, in writing, its slate of at least twenty-five candidates for the fifteen at-large Senate seats by February 1;