

Motion to Modify the IIT Faculty Handbook

March 24, 2008

Whereas the University Faculty Council has emerged as the official voice for faculty governance at IIT, and, whereas the chair of the University Faculty Council plays a pivotal role in the administration and execution of IIT's faculty governance, the following revisions to the following articles of Appendix B of the Faculty Handbook will be adopted and initially implemented for the UFC elections scheduled to take place within the Spring 2008 semester:

Articles to be modified:

IV.D. concerning the election of members to the UFC
IV.F , concerning the election of a chair of the UFC
IV.L and VI.B, concerning the selection of a chair of the Faculty Senate
V.D and V.D concerning the Main and Downtown Campus Committees.

For each modification, the existing wording is presented in regular font, and the proposed change is presented bold font. The rationale, and basis for future interpretation of the revised wording is presented at the end of each proposed change.

Article IV.D. This article presently reads:

D. Elections at the academic unit level for seats on the UFC shall be held no later than April 15. Each entity shall determine the method and criteria for electing its representatives. The selection of a candidate for the Council shall not be made by a dean, director, or other administrative officer of a college, school or institute.

Change to:

D. Elections at the academic unit level for seats on the UFC shall be held no later than April 15. The voting faculty of each academic unit shall determine the method and criteria for electing its representatives.

Rationale:

The rewording makes explicit that the method by which UFC representative/s are chosen within each academic unit is to be determined by the voting faculty of that academic unit, rather than by a unit head, dean, or any other administrative official.

Article IV.F This article presently reads:

F. The UFC shall elect its officers from among those individuals who will be UFC members in the forthcoming session of the Council for which the officers are being elected. The officers of the UFC shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary. The election of officers shall be held in May, and they shall take office with the commencement of the next session of the Council on August 15. Any individual who will be a Council member in that forthcoming session may be elected.

Change to:

F. The UFC shall elect a chair for a two-year term from amongst its members. If the elected chair is in the third year of his or her UFC membership term, and is not reelected from his or her unit, then he or she will become an *ex officio* voting member of the council during his or her second year as chair. The UFC shall elect a vice-chair and a secretary from among those individuals who will be UFC members in the forthcoming session of the Council to serve one-year terms. The regular election of officers shall be held in May, and the officers shall take office with the commencement of the next session of the Council on August 15.

Rationale:

A two-year Chair will be in a stronger position than a one-year chair to work on matters of faculty governance. The Committee recognizes that the Chair's duties go far beyond simply conducting the meetings of the UFC. The Chair has important roles in working with university administration and faculty on matters of interest to the faculty and the UFC, in conducting university-wide meetings of the faculty, in implementing and interpreting faculty governance procedures, and in representing the faculty to the President and Trustees.

It is presumed that the Vice-Chair, elected in the final year of the Chair's term would succeed the Chair in that year's May election, and therefore the choice of the Vice-Chair should be made with that intention in mind. It is highly desirable for the Vice-Chair to become familiar with, and participate in, the duties of the chair during his/her final semester in office.

Since the members of the UFC are elected for three-year terms, it is not reasonable to restrict the UFC to electing a two-year chair from UFC members who might be in their 1st or 2nd year of their term. Under the revised rules, an academic may elect a new UFC representative commensurate with the normal 3-year terms, and the UFC may elect a chair without regard to the AU term limits. It is recognized that the number of faculty sitting on the UFC may be increased by one should the chair become an *ex officio* UFC member, and, that the chair has all of the voting rights shared by other UFC members.

Articles IV.L and VI.B The articles presently read as follows:

L. No later than April 15 of the year in which the term of the Chair of the Faculty Senate expires, the UFC shall conduct an election by tenured members of the Faculty to elect a new Chair of the Faculty Senate.

B. The Faculty Senate shall elect a chair for a two-year term in an election conducted by the UFC, pursuant to Article IV.M., above.

Change to:

L. No later than April 1 of the year in which the Chair of the Faculty Senate expires, the UFC shall nominate a new Chair of the Faculty Senate. The UFC will inform the Faculty Senate of the nomination no later than April 7 of that year. If no more than fifteen members of the Faculty Senate object to the nomination, the nominee is accepted by the Faculty Senate as its Chair for a term of two years. If fifteen members of the Faculty Senate express objections to the nominee, then the UFC shall conduct an election by members of the Faculty Senate to elect a new Chair.

B. The Faculty Senate shall select a chair for a two year term, in an election conducted by the UFC pursuant to Article IV.L above.

Rationale:

The Faculty Senate rarely meets. It is, in fact, quite difficult to perform an election by ballot amongst the Faculty Senate. The above modification facilitates the process of selecting the Senate Chair.

Articles V.D and V.E. The articles presently read as follows:

D . There shall be a Main Campus Committee consisting of no fewer than three faculty members, at least two of whom shall be UFC members. This committee shall be responsible for addressing issues that are of special concern or relevance to the Main Campus and that are not addressed by any other committee of the Council, as determined by the Council Chair, and for making recommendations and reports to the Council regarding such issues.

E. There shall be a Downtown Campus Committee consisting of no fewer than three faculty members, at least two of whom shall be UFC members. This committee shall be responsible for addressing issues that are of special concern or relevance to the Downtown Campus and that are not addressed by any other committee of the Council, as determined by the Council Chair, and for making recommendations and reports to the Council regarding such issues.

Change to:

Delete paragraphs D and E.

Rationale:

These Committees are not presently active, nor have they been active for many years. They seem to be a residue from earlier university structures. When the campus system was eliminated there was the assumption that individual “campus” committees would be needed to consider issues unique to the individual campuses. This logic, although well intentioned, seems to be contradictory since there are no individual campuses within the current faculty governance structure. Furthermore, over the past 5 years the UFC has effectively dealt with all faculty governance issues. Therefore, there seems to be no need for these committees.