

Motion to Modify the IIT Faculty Handbook

March 7, 2008

Presented by Philip Troyk

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. 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.

Rationale:

The rewording makes explicit that this process is to be determined by the voting faculty, rather than by a unit head.

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 among the tenured faculty of the university. As needed, the UFC shall elect a vice-chair from among those individuals who will be UFC members in the forthcoming session of the Council to serve for the first year of the chair's two-year term. As needed, the UFC shall elect a chair-elect, from among the tenured faculty of the university, to serve for the second year of the chair's two-year term. The election of a chair-elect is made on the presumption that the chair-elect will be elected as the next Chair of the UFC. The UFC shall elect a secretary from among those individuals who will be UFC members in the forthcoming session of the Council. The regular 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.

Both the Chair and Chair-Elect shall be regular voting members of the UFC.

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 conducting the meetings of the UFC. The Chair has important roles in working with university administration on matters of interest to 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. The proposed change will give continuity in the role of the Chair and that of the Chair-Elect.

Since the members of the UFC are elected for three-year terms, it is not reasonable to restrict the UFC to elect a two-year chair from its standing membership. Under the revised rules, the Chair and Chair-Elect may be any tenured members of the faculty. Given the difficult and potentially controversial nature of matters of faculty governance, it is the view of the Committee that the chair should be a tenured member of the Faculty. It is recognized that potentially the number of faculty sitting on the UFC may be increased by two should the chair and chair-elect not be elected from among the upcoming UFC membership.

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 among the Faculty Senate. The above modification simplifies the process.

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.