

To: University Faculty Council
From: John Snapper
Date: 11/2/07

Subject: Faculty Council Procedures.

The University Faculty Council asked Dr. Snapper on 8/7/07 to form a Committee and to bring recommendations to the UFC on modifications to handbook descriptions of the selection of its members and officers. The Committee is

John Snapper (member of the UFC),
Lew Collens (past president of the University),
Phil Troyk (present chair of the UFC),
Michael Young (past chair of the UFC).

The committee recommends revisions to the following articles of Appendix B of the Faculty Handbook:

IV.D. concerning the selection of members to the UFC
IV.F , concerning the selection 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 formation of two Campus Committees.

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.

The Committee recommends that the phrase AEach entity shall determine@ be replaced by the phrase AThe voting faculty of each academic unit shall determine.@

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.

The Committee recommends that this article be modified to read:

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 to serve as Vice-Chair for the second year of the chair=s two-year term. The election of the 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.

The Committee recommends that there be an additional article to define the voting role of the chair:

NEW. If the Chair of the UFC is not an elected member of the UFC, then the chair only votes to resolve tie votes in the UFC. If the Chair is an elected member of the UFC, then the chair may vote on all voting matters.

It is the view of the Committee that 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 the duty to conduct meetings of the UFC. The Chair has important roles in meeting with university administration on matters of interest to the UFC, in conducting university-wide meetings of the faculty, in implementing faculty governance procedures, and in representing the faculty to the President and Trustees. The proposed changes will give continuity in those roles of chair and 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 may be any tenured member 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.

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.

The committee recommends that Articles be revised to read as follows:

IV.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 twenty members of the Faculty Senate object to the nomination during that April, the nominee is accepted by the Faculty Senate as its Chair for a term of two years. If twenty members of the Faculty Senate express objections to the nominee, then the UFC shall conduct an election in May of the Faculty Senate to elect a new Chair.

VI.B. The Faculty Senate shall select a chair for a two year term, pursuant to the procedure explained in IV above. If at a meeting of the Faculty Senate, the majority of the Faculty Senate votes to hold a present election of a chair, the Chair will preside over an immediate election of a chair from present members of the Faculty Senate. The newly elected Chair will then take over the chairmanship at that meeting.

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. The option of a present election in VI.B gives the Senate an additional option to hold an election if the Senate believes that it is needed.

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.

The Committee recommends the deletion of these two items.

These Committees are not presently active, nor have they been active for many years. They are a hold-over from earlier university structures.

Under IIT's prior two-campus system, there had been Main Campus and Downtown Campus faculty councils with formal duties, as well the University Faculty Council. When we moved to a single-campus model, it was felt that there might be campus concerns that would not get sufficient attention. Therefore, separate campus committees were established but with no formal duties. Since that time these committees have not functioned and their absence has not been a problem. There is no apparent need for these committees on present procedures for faculty governance.