Background Information

At the 2019 Fall Faculty Meeting the faculty voted to extend voting rights to all term, all renewable term, and most temporary/adjunct faculty. With approximately 125 new members of the voting faculty, a discussion arose about the allocation of seats on the Faculty Senate.

During Spring 2020 a committee was created and chaired by Faculty Chair Amy Petersen to investigate whether and how Faculty Senate seats should be reallocated. The committee offered three recommendations.

1. The Faculty Constitution should be changed to allow the Faculty Senate to determine the allocation of its own seats. Reasons included (1) the need to address the complexities and impacts of adding approximately 125 new voting faculty members, and (2) potential future changes to UNI’s academic structure due to academic positioning. Continuing to use the Faculty Constitution to allocate Faculty Senate seats makes it difficult to address the above matters, since, if any changes become necessary, a vote is required at a once-a-year Fall Faculty Meeting where it is often a challenge to get a quorum. Transferring this authority to the Faculty Senate is much more efficient. Note also that a specific model for allocating seats is not being proposed at this time.

2. With the expansion of voting rights to all term, all renewable term, and most temporary/adjunct faculty, there is no longer a need to reserve two seats on the Faculty Senate specifically for these contingent faculty. They can now vote for candidates and run to represent their undergraduate college and the Library just like any tenured or tenure-track faculty member. Furthermore, any labor issues connected with contingent employment are best addressed through United Faculty, since the Faculty Senate deals primarily with curriculum issues.

3. The chairperson of the graduate faculty should be added as an ex officio member of the Faculty Senate. The current chairperson of the faculty already serves in this role.

Below are the proposed changes to the Faculty Constitution. Two options are presented.

* Option I delegates the authority to the UNI Faculty Senate to determine its membership, eliminates the need to allocate a specific number of seats to non-voting faculty, and adds the Graduate Faculty Chair as an ex-officio member.
* Option II continues the current practice of having the Faculty Constitution specify the membership formula for the Faculty Senate, eliminates the need to allocate a specific number of seats to non-voting faculty, and adds the Graduate Faculty Chair as an ex-officio member.

Adoption requires a two-thirds vote of the faculty in attendance at the Fall Faculty Meeting scheduled for 10/19/20.

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Option I: Current Wording

**3.1 Senate Membership.** The University Faculty Senate shall be composed of members elected by and from the voting faculty from each undergraduate college (including academic units that function as a college although otherwise designated), elected by and from the Library Faculty, and elected by and from the non-voting faculty. The number of senators to be elected by the members of each undergraduate college and the Library will be determined by the following formula: one senator per thirty voting faculty members rounded to the nearest multiple of thirty, with a minimum of at least one senator from each college. Two non-voting senators, elected from the non-voting faculty shall have full rights of debate and motion but no Senate vote. The chairperson of the faculty shall be an ex officio member of the University Faculty Senate with full rights of debate and motion but will not vote.

Option I: Current Wording with Proposed Changes

**3.1 Senate Membership.** The University Faculty Senate shall be composed of members elected by and from the voting faculty from each undergraduate college (including academic units that function as a college although otherwise designated), and elected by and from the Library Faculty~~, and elected by and from the non-voting faculty~~. The number of senators to be elected by the members of each undergraduate college and the Library will be determined by the University Faculty Senate Bylaws. ~~following formula: one senator per thirty voting faculty members rounded to the nearest multiple of thirty, with a minimum of at least one senator from each college. Two non-voting senators, elected from the non-voting faculty shall have full rights of debate and motion but no Senate vote.~~ The chairperson of the faculty and the chairperson of the graduate faculty shall be ~~an~~ ex officio members of the University Faculty Senate with full rights of debate and motion but will not vote.

Option I: Proposed New Wording

**3.1 Senate Membership.** The University Faculty Senate shall be composed of members elected by and from the voting faculty from each undergraduate college (including academic units that function as a college although otherwise designated), and elected by and from the Library Faculty. The number of senators to be elected by the members of each undergraduate college and the Library will be determined by the University Faculty Senate Bylaws. The chairperson of the faculty and the chairperson of the graduate faculty shall be ex officio members of the University Faculty Senate with full rights of debate and motion but will not vote.

Option II: Current Wording

**3.1 Senate Membership.** The University Faculty Senate shall be composed of members elected by and from the voting faculty from each undergraduate college (including academic units that function as a college although otherwise designated), elected by and from the Library Faculty, and elected by and from the non-voting faculty. The number of senators to be elected by the members of each undergraduate college and the Library will be determined by the following formula: one senator per thirty voting faculty members rounded to the nearest multiple of thirty, with a minimum of at least one senator from each college. Two non-voting senators, elected from the non-voting faculty shall have full rights of debate and motion but no Senate vote. The chairperson of the faculty shall be an ex officio member of the University Faculty Senate with full rights of debate and motion but will not vote.

Option II: Current Wording with Proposed Changes

**3.1 Senate Membership.** The University Faculty Senate shall be composed of members elected by and from the voting faculty from each undergraduate college (including academic units that function as a college although otherwise designated), and elected by and from the Library Faculty~~, and elected by and from the non-voting faculty~~. The number of senators to be elected by the members of each undergraduate college and the Library will be determined by the following formula: one senator per thirty voting faculty members rounded to the nearest multiple of thirty, with a minimum of at least one senator from each college~~. Two non-voting senators, elected from the non-voting faculty shall have full rights of debate and motion but no Senate vote.~~ The chairperson of the faculty and the chairperson of the graduate faculty shall be ~~an~~ ex officio members of the University Faculty Senate with full rights of debate and motion but will not vote.

Option II: Proposed New Wording

**3.1 Senate Membership.** The University Faculty Senate shall be composed of members elected by and from the voting faculty from each undergraduate college (including academic units that function as a college although otherwise designated), and elected by and from the Library Faculty. The number of senators to be elected by the members of each undergraduate college and the Library will be determined by the following formula: one senator per thirty voting faculty members rounded to the nearest multiple of thirty, with a minimum of at least one senator from each college. The chairperson of the faculty and the chairperson of the graduate faculty shall be ex officio members of the University Faculty Senate with full rights of debate and motion but will not vote.

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Other Information

If authority is delegated to the Faculty Senate to allocate Faculty Senate seats, any proposed model for allocating seats requires a two-thirds vote of senators for adoption (Faculty Senate Bylaws: Section 8).

Any decision of the Faculty Senate can be overridden by a simple majority vote of the full faculty (Faculty Constitution: Article VI, Section 6).

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