**UNI Faculty Senate Membership Working Group**

**Petition for Senate Consideration**

**Working Group Committee Members**

Tyler O’Brien: CSBS

Donna Hoffman: CSBS

Tom Hesse: CHAS

Nikki Skaar: COE

Imam Alam: CBA

**Charge**

* Develop proposal(s) to determine how UNI Faculty Senate membership is allocated.
* Gather faculty input on proposals in preparation for vote to amend the UNI Senate Constitution (3.1) and Senate By-Laws (2.1) at the 2020 Fall Faculty meeting.
* Identify other related issues that need problem solving as a result of expanding voting rights.

**BACKGROUND & CONTEXT**

At the fall 2019 all faculty meeting, all term and term/renewable faculty were given the right to vote in university and college elections as long as they meet any eligibility requirements (e.g., terminal degree or graduate status).

These voting rights also extend to departments if the faculty member teaches at least 50% in that department.

Adjunct voting faculty may also be invited to attend Department meetings; however, they do not have service requirement in their contracts so such attendance is voluntary.

**Current Language**

Senate Constitution:

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.

Senate bylaws:

2.1 Representation.  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.  When the number of voting faculty from a college falls exactly between two multiples of thirty, Senate representation will be based on the larger multiple.

2.2 Review of Faculty Roster.  *The number of voting faculty members from a college used to calculate representation to the Senate will be based on the fall semester edition of the Faculty Roster.*  The Committee on Committees will review this edition of the Roster of Faculty soon after its release and notify college Senators when changes in the number of voting faculty would cause a change in the number of representatives to Senate from that college.  Should errors be discovered upon issuance of the new Faculty Roster, the Chair of the Faculty shall amend the Faculty Roster.

**By the Numbers**

* Approximately 57 new term or temporary voting faculty and 68 adjuncts
* 125 new voters
  + CBA:15
  + COE: 31
  + CHAS: 64
  + CSBS: 16
* Current Senate membership:
  + COE: 4
  + CHAS:8 (needs one more per 2020 Spring roster)
  + CSBS: 4
  + CBA: 2
  + Lib: 1
  + Non-voting: 2
* Current Spring 2020 Roster
  + COE: 131
  + CHAS:276
  + CSBS: 121
  + CBA:65

**FOR ADDITIONAL SENATE DISCUSSION**

As we consider a change to the UNI Faculty Constitution, the first matter for discussion is the specificity with which we change the Constitution.

* Do we change the constitution with specificity, meaning specifically articulate how UNI Faculty Senate membership should be determined?
* Or, do we change the constitution to indicate that the UNI Faculty Senate determines membership? That is, should we delegate the control to the Senate?

The working group developed four potential proposals for discussion:

1. Continue to use current faculty ration per college to calculate UNI Faculty Senate member. No change of the Constitution necessary.
2. Shift to a standard allocation of senators per college. For example, each college would elect and send four senators to the UNI Faculty Senate.
   1. Include a requirement that at least one senator from each college be the College Senate Chair or designee from the College Senate.
3. Shift to a departmental representation model where each department elects or appoints a faculty member to serve on the UNI Faculty Senate.

In addition, the working group is proposing the following:

1. Eliminate the need for non-voting faculty representation.
2. Appoint the Graduate Chair to an ex-officio member of the Senate.