

Ad-Hoc Committee for Faculty Senate Reorganization

Committee: Ted Gilkey, Pat McDermott, Michael Scott, Kristen Walton

I. In order to address the previously released proposal in a timely and ordered fashion, the committee proposes to look at questions of restructuring in the following order for the 11 May meeting.

II. The committee is attaching hereto an appendix with 4 suggested proposals for the restructuring itself, incorporating ideas from the email discussion throughout the university over the past month. We propose to let Senators contemplate these 4 proposed structures over the summer and address that issue in the fall with suggestions, thoughts, and input from Senators and the faculty community at large.

III. For the current meeting, we propose addressing the following:

1. We propose expanding the Faculty Senate Officers be expanded to seven persons. In addition to the President, the Secretary, and the Webmaster, each school caucus will select a Vice-President. The department Senators for each school will select the vice-president to represent their school by consensus.

Rationale: Some important issues are discussed by Senate Officers that are never elevated to the full Senate. This assures that each school is represented by an officer and has input when issues are brought back to Senate officers for deliberation.

- 1a. We propose that anyone nominated to be the President of the Senate must have served as a VP prior to becoming President.

Rationale: This will insure that the President has a minimum level of experience as a prerequisite.

- 1b. We propose that any meeting between Faculty Senate Officers and the Provost or President include at least one Officer from each School in attendance. The substance of these meetings will be reported back to the full Senate at the next meeting or to their school caucus by the appropriate vice-president if timeliness is an issue.

Rationale: The Provost meets regularly with the Senate Officers. This has been the practice since Provost Buchanan. To remedy any issues of transparency (real or perceived) and communication, Senators need to be aware of these meetings and what was discussed.

2. All motions requiring Faculty Senate action will need two readings prior to approval.

Rationale: This will allow for discussion and clarification of issues prior to final approval. This will also allow Senate to review committee recommendations and give feedback to the committee prior to final approval.

3. We propose that all Senate committees send committee meeting agendas to all Senators at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.

Rationale: This will increase Senate awareness, ownership and support for committee work. It will also allow the Senators to get some feedback from their constituents, should they elect to do so. It will allow for the identification and discussion of issues that are best addressed at the committee level rather than at the Senate level.

- 5.4. We propose that the Faculty Senate may enter closed session by 2/3 vote of Senators present.

Rationale: Closed session will help to insure that individuals are not embarrassed or offended by Senate deliberations. It will also ensure that faculty can voice their opinions without concern, real or perceived, of retaliation from administration.

- 6.5. We propose that Senators may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. After serving two terms, a Senator will not eligible for election for three years. Temporary sabbatical replacements will not count toward term limits.

Rationale: Terms limits will encourage greater involvement of faculty.

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7.6. We propose that Senate meetings should be video-taped and broadcast on the SU television station.

Rationale: This will increase Senate visibility while addressing transparency and communication issues.