

## **Proposed Amendment to the Faculty Senate Constitution**

(last revised 3/30/15)

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Article VII. C. of the Faculty Senate Constitution currently reads as follows:

C. Reassigned time shall be allotted to the following members of the Executive Committee

- President – 50%
- Curriculum Committee Chair – 25%
- Faculty Benefits Chair – 25% for Fall Semester
- Professional Concerns Chair – 25%

The proposed amendment would replace the current language with the following:

C. Reassigned time or stipends shall be allotted to the following members of the Executive Committee as follows:

- President – 50% reassigned time
- Curriculum Chair – 25% reassigned time
- Faculty Benefits Chair – 25% reassigned time for Fall Semester
- Professional Concerns Chair – 25% reassigned time
- Budget Committee Chair – 25% reassigned time
- Vice President – stipend (amount set by Provost)
- Secretary – stipend (amount set by Provost)
- Parliamentarian – stipend (amount set by Provost)

### **Rationale**

The duties of the Budget Committee as set forth in Article VII. E. of the Faculty Senate Constitution. These duties include reviewing, analyzing, recommending, and reporting to the Faculty Senate on all matters pertaining to the budget, including:

- the University's budget proposal
- the University's annual operating budget in at least the preliminary, intermediate, and final stages of its development
- salary data relating to the University's salary policy and appointment
- major capital expenditure proposals submitted by the administration
- informing the Faculty Senate of actions and proposals of the Legislature, Governor's Office, Council on Higher Education, and other agencies, public and private, which might affect aspects of the university programs and governance for which the Faculty Senate has responsibility

This is an extensive charge – greater, one can reasonably conclude, than that of any other Faculty Senate committee. But these functions have not been carried out in many years; not through any fault of the Budget Committee, but because the time required to even partially fulfill this mandate is excessive and unreasonable given that the Budget Committee chair receives no reassigned time whatsoever. In recent years, it has been difficult to impossible to find anyone even willing to serve as Budget Committee chair in a reduced role, due to the time demands. In the current academic year, the Budget Committee has been de facto disbanded due to the lack of a chair.

This is a matter of great concern at any time, but especially so in an environment where budget concerns are so very pressing. It is critical to collegial governance and faculty morale that communication and transparency between the administration be fostered. Providing the Budget Committee chair with reasonable reassigned time will be of significant benefit to the faculty and administration of the University.

The other Senate Executive Committee positions included in this proposed amendment also involve significant effort with no compensation. A reasonable stipend for these positions will appropriately compensate the position-holders for their efforts as well as serve as an incentive to qualified faculty who may serve in these positions in the future.

### **Process**

Article XV of the Faculty Senate Constitution stipulates the following amendment process:

This constitution may be amended at any meeting of the General Faculty by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, provided the proposed amendment was included in the agenda and was available to the members of the General Faculty for one week prior to the meeting. The approved amendment becomes operative upon ratification by the Board of Regents.

Article VIII. A – C stipulates the process by which a meeting of the General Faculty may be called:

- A. The general faculty shall meet as appropriate, the meeting to be convened by the President of the Faculty Senate, the President of the University, the Provost, or the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.
- B. Should a petition, signed by at least 10 percent of the General Faculty as exhibited on the official roster, requesting a meeting of the General Faculty and indicating proposed items of business be filed with the President of the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee shall call a meeting of the General Faculty to consider those matters. Such a meeting shall be held not later than

fourteen calendar days, exclusive of holidays, from the filing date of the petition. The filing of a petition challenging Senate action shall be interpreted as a declaration that the General Faculty is asserting its jurisdiction.

- C. No meeting of the General Faculty called by the Executive Committee shall be held unless an agenda prepared by that committee is distributed to all members of the General Faculty at least one week prior to the meeting date.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate convene a meeting of the General Faculty for the purpose of voting on this amendment. It is further recommended that this occur in sufficient time so that this proposed amendment, if approved, may be ratified by the Board of Regents at their meeting of May 6, 2015.