

Proposals for Constitution Changes

Summary of Proposed Changes:

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Constitution Proposal 1 – Remove non-employee faculty from the General Faculty in order to align with existing ABOR policy

ARTICLE II. Members

Section 1.

For purposes of University government, the General Faculty of The University of Arizona is composed of:

- a. **Individuals Employees** who hold at least half-time tenured or tenure-eligible faculty appointments,
- b. **Individuals Employees** who hold at least half-time continuing or continuing-eligible appointments,
- c. **Individuals-Employees** who hold ~~at least half-time multi-year~~ career-track faculty appointments **with multi-year contracts**,
- ~~d. Individuals Employees~~ who have held at least half-time year-to-year career-track faculty appointments for three (3) of the past four (4) years and who currently hold lecturer or ranked professorial titles ~~that do not include an adjunct or visiting modifier, and~~
- ~~e. Individuals who hold Emeritus status.~~

Rationale: ABOR prohibits non-employees from being Members of the General Faculty or participating in campus-level shared governance activities. The effect of this change will mean that neither DCC faculty nor emeritus faculty will be eligible for General Faculty Membership. The numbers of DCC Faculty (222) and Emeritus Faculty (786) are non-trivial, however, their participation in shared governance has been a fraction of other faculty types, (e.g., 0.5% of Emeritus Faculty and 3% of DCC's voted in the last 2 elections). ABOR does not prohibit non-employees from participating in governance at the unit level. This proposal was brought forward through and endorsed by the Committee on Faculty Governance.

Rationale: Because adjunct and visiting faculty are not defined as career track in UHAP we do not need to spell that out here. Replace multiyear appointment with multiyear contract. These should be housekeeping changes.

Constitution Proposal 2 – Clarify how/if voting privileges change when a faculty member’s home college changes.

ARTICLE II. Members

Section 4.

Members of the General Faculty are eligible to vote in matters of faculty governance, to hold offices, and to serve on committees established in accordance with this Constitution. Faculty with administrative appointments vote in their home college. Should any faculty member’s home college change (i.e. due to the transfer of an individual to another unit, or due to a unit reorganization or merger), voting privileges **should typically** move to the new college. **The Committee on Faculty Membership shall make determinations on General Faculty Membership or voting privileges in any cases where there is uncertainty.**

Rationale: There are situations where tenured or continued individuals move to a non-academic unit that has no P&T committee and it is important that they retain their connection to their original tenure/CS home. In these situations, they should be allowed to continue to vote and participate in the governance in their tenure/CS home. Using the Committee on Faculty Membership to adjudicate would make sense.

Constitution Proposal 3 – Make wording changes to align with changes in Section II.

Article II. Members.

Section 5.

Faculty Shared Governance

In matters of faculty governance, the elected and at-large representatives to Faculty Senate represent not only members of the General Faculty, but also those ~~career track, visiting, and adjunct~~ faculty who do not meet the criteria for membership in the General Faculty. These include:

- a. Emeritus faculty
- b. Non-employee campus colleague (DCC) faculty
- c. Employees with career-track lecturer or ranked professorial titles who have not held at least half-time or more year-to-year appointments for three (3) of the last four (4) years, and
- d. Employees who have faculty appointments that do not qualify for membership in the General Faculty (e.g., instructors, or those with adjunct, global, visiting, or courtesy/secondary faculty appointments).

Rationale: Changes need to be made here in order to bring it into alignment with Section II.

Constitution Proposal 4 – Clarify how Faculty Senate calls a meeting of the General Faculty

ARTICLE IV. Meetings of the General Faculty

Section 1.

Meetings of the General Faculty, limited to the purpose(s) stated in the call, shall be held:

- a. On the call of the Chair of the Faculty.
- b. **By majority vote of the Faculty Senate.**
- c. On written petition from members of the General Faculty, as specified in the Bylaws Article III, Section 1.

Rationale: This makes clear the mechanism through which Senate approves a “call.” It does not change the process. Should it be housekeeping?

Constitution Proposal 5 – Provide options for Senate/Senators to call an emergency Senate meeting

Article VII. Faculty Senate

Section 4.

Meetings

The Faculty Senate shall meet regularly the first working Monday in each month during the academic year, except on religious holidays observed by members of the Senate. When the first working Monday of the month falls on a religious holiday observed by one or more Senators, such that observance of the holiday would prevent those Senators from participating in Senate, Senate meetings shall be moved to the second working Monday in the month. Other changes to the calendar can be made, as voted upon and approved by the Faculty Senate. Its meetings shall be open to the public, except when the body decides to meet in executive session. The agenda of each meeting shall be set by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Additional meetings may be called by the President of the University, the Chair of the Faculty, **or by majority vote of Senate. If the call cannot be voted on in a Senate meeting, a petition including half of the elected Faculty Senators will suffice. Any such call or petition shall be presented to the Vice Chair of the Faculty and shall state the purpose(s) of the intended meeting. Notice shall be given at least one week in advance of any meeting and shall contain a copy of any substantive proposal to be presented.**

Rationale: This provides additional ways for a Senate meeting to be called by Senate or Senators. For the petition, it excludes the faculty officers and administrators from this process (since they have other options) and includes only elected faculty senators (of which there are currently 61). The question is whether or not a majority should be required, a third, or some specific number (e.g., 25).

Constitution Proposal 6 – Make governance participation (and responsibility) equitable across faculty types within the General Faculty at all levels

ARTICLE VIII. The College Faculties

The general charge of each College is entrusted to its College Faculty, subject to the Board of Regents and the authority vested by the Board in the President of the University. Voting rights and participation in shared governance in College matters shall generally be accorded to General Faculty members as defined in Article II above, and to such other individuals as the College Faculty may decide. General Faculty members should **not** be excluded from **equitable participation in** shared governance activities **unless otherwise indicated by ABOR or University policy** (e.g., tenure-eligible or career track faculty participation on a Promotion and Tenure committee). ~~Any such exclusions should be detailed in College or unit Bylaws.~~

Rationale: There continues to be uneven inclusion of Career Track faculty who are Members of the General Faculty at the college and unit levels. The current wording in the Constitution was included, in part, to allow units to include or exclude emeritus faculty, as appropriate, but has wrongly been used to justify excluding Career Track faculty. Making this change should provide better leverage to ensure more uniform practice across campus.

General Proposal 7 - Make the Constitution and Bylaws gender neutral throughout

Rationale: We made this change in UHAP (chapters 3 & 4) some years ago. Doing the same in the Constitution and Bylaws would send a positive signal of inclusivity.