

To: Faculty Senate Officers

From: Tessa L. Dysart, Chair of the Committee on Faculty Membership & Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Date: July 5, 2022

Re: 2017 Bylaws Changes

At the August 28, 2017, Faculty Senate meeting, the Faculty Senate approved a change to the Bylaws. As explained in the minutes:

the . . . revision would change the terminology for “non-college” as non-academic units, to “common college” as listed in the bylaws. The term “common college” refers to the group of General Faculty members who do not belong to an academic college, or to a non-academic unit whose General Faculty membership exceeds the number of General Faculty in the smallest academic college, currently the College of Medicine Phoenix. The change would allow smaller “common college” units to be better represented by allowing them Senate representation.

This motion was seconded and passed by the Senate. I have attached these minutes as Attachment A, with the relevant language highlighted.

Because this change was a change to the Bylaws, it was subject to a vote of the General Faculty. The rationale shared with the General Faculty explained that our then-current bylaws did not allow for non-college units to “be recognized as a college for purposes of Faculty Senate Representation.” It then explained that:

Currently, the 'non-College' category includes 124 members of the General Faculty, or 4.4% of the total. If 'non-College' were a traditional academic college, it would be the 9th largest of the 17 colleges at the UA. Some units currently included in the 'non-College' category are themselves larger than the smallest academic college (which includes 22 members of the General Faculty). Because of this, smaller non-college units are at a severe disadvantage in electing their representatives to Senate.

The Senate further explained that because

Populations of different units also change over time, so it would be ill-advised to construct policy based only on current numbers. Units currently included in the ‘non-College’ category vary in their administrative structures, with some (i.e. UA South, the Libraries) organized under a Dean, and others not. Administrative structures also change over time, so constructing policy based on current structures would also be unwise.

I have attached this rationale document as Attachment B, with the relevant information on page 2 of the document.

The General Faculty held a special election from September 13, 2017, to September 26, 2017. There were three Bylaws Revisions on the ballot, including the one noted above, which was

Revision 2. Revision 2 was approved by the General Faculty by a vote of 409 to 106 (79.42% in favor and 20.58% against). The election results are attached as Attachment C.

Following the approval of this Bylaws change, the Libraries were given representation in the Faculty Senate. After reviewing the reports of the Faculty Membership Committee and the minutes of the Faculty Senate, it appears that no other action was taken by either entity for the Libraries to receive its representative.

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DATE: June 29, 2022

TO: Tessa Dysart, Chair, Committee on Faculty Membership

FROM: Elliott Cheu, Associate Vice President, University Research Institutes, RII

SUBJ: RII Faculty Senate Seat

The Office of Research, Innovation and Impact (RII) serves as the home unit for approximately 40 faculty members. According to the Faculty Senate bylaws dated July 28, 2020, any non-academic unit that has at least as many General Faculty members as the smallest academic college should have representation by a least one Faculty Senate member. Given that the College of Veterinary Medicine has seven General Faculty members, RII clearly qualifies to have a seat on Faculty Senate. I respectfully request that RII be granted a seat on Faculty Senate beginning in AY22-23.

For context, I would add that while RII has a significant number of faculty, we are just beginning to institute policies and practices that will go a long way towards fostering a culture of excellence and inclusion in RII. As RII General Faculty members have long been part of the common college, having a seat in Faculty Senate will help to develop a shared culture within our unit. In addition, issues that are probably unique to RII faculty will be able to be highlighted by Faculty Senate representation. Further information about RII can be found at <http://research.arizona.edu>, with the organizational structure of RII detailed here: <https://research.arizona.edu/organizational-chart>.