Proposed Senate Resolution

Background

Historically at the UA, we have left decisions on college representation on the university wide curriculum committees to the colleges. We do not intend to change that, but we do need to ensure the same mechanisms used to select representatives are followed by all colleges. To date, each college has approached the selection of representatives differently (and many just rely on appointments by the Dean). That practice has recently come under question as being contrary to our definition of shared governance representation as detailed in our Shared Governance MOU.

To address this, last year we had recommended (and Senate approved) that we require colleges to ensure that their representatives are selected through the mechanisms agreed to in our MOU on Shared Governance. These require that faculty representatives for shared governance either 1) be directly elected by their peers or 2) be appointed by an elected faculty officer or elected faculty body. However, we later rescinded that recommended change to the Bylaws on the advice of the committee chairs, who were concerned that they would be left with multiple vacancies if this occurred.

Recent controversy about shared governance participation in the General Education Refresh, however, has underscored the need for the shared governance pedigree of our three curriculum committees to be incontestable. To accomplish this and ensure our committees will be fully populated, we need to be certain all our colleges have the necessary structures to support a uniform approach to identifying shared governance representatives.

UHAP 7.09 Resolution on College Governance requires that "[e]ach college will have an advisory committee or council of faculty members, elected by the faculty of that college, to provide a voice for the faculty in the governance of that college."

This Senate resolution would direct all colleges to establish an <u>elected</u> faculty advisory committee (if they do not have one already) to comply with UHAP 7.09 prior to the end of AY22. This will allow us to support a Bylaws change that would make these committees, in consultation with the chairs of the three curriculum committees, responsible (and accountable) for appointing college representatives. Such a change would ensure we have a uniform approach across colleges and that our curriculum committees are populated through uniform shared governance mechanisms.

While this approach by itself should improve trust in these committees from the college faculty and from Faculty Senate, we still suggest keeping one representative from Senate on each committee (rather than the two we previously approved). Limiting to one Senate representative should help us improve engagement with these committees without overly burdening senators.

Resolution Text:

Prior to AY23, all colleges shall establish an elected faculty advisory committee in accordance with UHAP 7.09 – Resolution on College Governance, for the purposes outlined in UHAP as well as to provide a uniform mechanism for appointing faculty shared governance representatives to university-wide shared governance curriculum committees.