Committee on Faculty Membership process and procedure updates

Received 1/16/2019, proposed by faculty officers in consultation with the Committee on Faculty Membership.

**Change 1: No change required to Bylaws or Constitution, but we seek Senate support for this change in practice.**

Create an online petitions process by which individuals who are not automatically included in the census of the General Faculty can request consideration from the Committee on Faculty Membership.

*Rationale:*

The Committee on Faculty Membership is charged with considering requests from individuals who are not automatically included in the census of the General Faculty, but who believe they meet the Constitution’s definitions, under the Senate-approved guiding principles. There’s no fixed mechanism to allow that process to happen, though.

*Proposal:*

We propose the creation of an online ‘petition’ that individuals can use to request consideration. The petition will pull relevant data from UAccess and elicit other pertinent information from the individual that will be needed by the Committee for their deliberations.

**Change 2: Bylaws article IV Section 3, and article VIII Section 2**

Change the number of at-large Senators from a fixed number (currently 20) and have it simply constitute the remainder, after Senate representation from Colleges has been satisfied. This will ensure that the total number of Senators will remain the same, even as the number of College Representatives changes over time (due to increases in the number of colleges, or the number of faculty in colleges).

*Rationale:*

The Committee on Faculty Membership is charged with apportionment of College Representatives for Senate. The Census of the General Faculty and the following rubric guide that apportionment:

- Each Academic College with fewer than 100 members of the General Faculty is apportioned 1 Senate Representative, those with more than 100 members are apportioned 2 Senate Representative, and those with more than 300 members are apportioned an additional Senate Representative (for a total of 3).
- A non-academic unit (whose members would typically be included in the Common College) receives dedicated Senate representation if it has more members of the General Faculty than the smallest existing Academic College. Currently, only the Libraries meet these criteria.
- Members of the General Faculty who are not affiliated with an Academic College (and who have fewer faculty than the smallest academic college) conduct elections as if they constitute a common college. This Common College is currently allocated 1 Senate Representative, because it includes fewer than 100 members of the General Faculty.
- There are currently 20 Senators-at-Large. Any member of the General Faculty may be a candidate for an at-Large seat.
Under this rubric, as the University’s Academic Colleges grow and shrink in terms of faculty lines, the number of College Representatives will change in ways that will not always be predictable. With the fixed number of at-Large Senators, this means that the size of Senate will also change.

At time of writing, there are 70 voting members of the Faculty Senate, of whom 51 are elected representatives (including College Representatives and At-Large Members).

Proposal

We propose to modify the Bylaws so that instead of a fixed number of Senators-at-Large, that number will change, depending on the number of College representatives (i.e., College representatives + X = 51, where X = the number of Senators-at-Large). The Committee on Faculty Membership would continue to be responsible for apportionment along these lines.