Committee on Faculty Membership process and procedure updates

Received 1/16/2019, proposed by faculty officers in consultation with the Committee on Faculty Membership. Approved by Committee on Faculty Membership, Jan 29 2019.

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

Cap the size of Senate membership at 75, and ensure that Faculty representation is not diluted.

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 Representatives, 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.

An overall cap on the size of Senate is necessary because as the campus grows and Colleges gain seats on the Senate via our regular apportionment process outlined above, the Senate may grow to a point that becomes counter-productive logistically and functionally.
The occupancy limit on our current meeting space (Silver and Sage in Old Main) is 90, and a cap of 75 would allow us to continue to use that space, while ensuring that some seats would be available to observers.

The mechanism for ensuring the cap would be to allow the number of at-Large seats to fluctuate as needed. Currently, the Senate has 70 members, 20 of whom are Senators-at-Large. In the event that College apportionment increases the number of College Representatives to increase Senate membership beyond 80, this change would reduce the number of at-Large seats.

Under this change, the overall number of elected Faculty Senators will grow as it should, without undermining its ability to continue to function effectively.

Proposal

We propose to modify the Bylaws so that instead of a fixed number of Senators-at-Large, that number will change such that Senate membership does not exceed 75. The Committee on Faculty Membership would continue to be responsible for apportionment along these lines.