

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE DISCUSSION AND STRAW VOTE

In 2007, the Sixth Senate Review Commission recommended:

Academic professionals have been non-voting members of many Senate standing committees since the early 1980's. In 2002, academic professionals were given voting membership on ten of nineteen Senate standing committees, as well as approval for the Council of Academic Professionals (CAP) chair to act as a liaison for academic professionals to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC). In 2006, the UIUC Senate Bylaws were changed to allow an academic professional to serve on the Committee on Committees in order to provide a conduit from CAP for nominations to Senate committees. Academic professionals have also served on many campus-wide (e.g., the recent Chancellor Search Committee) and University-wide (e.g., the Presidential Search Committee) committees.

The University of Illinois at Chicago Senate added representation by three academic professional senators to their assembly in 2005. The University of Illinois at Springfield Senate has included representation by one academic professional senator since the campus joined the University.

From the Campus Facts 2007 database, there are 2083 faculty (both tenured/tenure track faculty as of Fall 2006) and 3419 academic professionals (this does not include those academic professionals working in University Administration units, which would be another ~1,000 academic professionals).

Academic professionals bring a unique, distinctive perspective to all their service that complements the faculty perspective. Given the increasing role that academic professionals play in delivering instruction and participating in the academic mission of the University, we recommend that they be given voting representation in the Senate. Current CAP practice is to divide the campus into ten districts of roughly equal size and elect their members by district. We recommend that the number of academic professional senators added be ten to conform with this practice.

At the December 8, 2008, Senate meeting a proposal from the USSP committee to add AP members from all eleven CAP districts was debated and not approved. But in that discussion, the debate was mainly over two alternative mechanisms for selecting AP members – one involving their election as part of a separate electorate (as students are chosen), the other involving their election through the same electoral process as faculty, if a unit chooses to elect an AP with one of their Senate seats. There are issues to be debated over the merits of these two respective approaches, but that is not the topic of today's discussion.

Before undertaking the task of crafting a specific election process, USSP has requested clarification of the broad intent of the Senate. For this purpose, the Senate Executive Committee recommends a Committee of the Whole discussion, limited *solely* to the topic of the merits of adding a limited number of Academic Professionals to the Senate.

This discussion, limited to no more than a half hour, would then conclude with a *nonbinding* straw vote on the proposition:

"Should the Senate add a limited number of Academic Professionals to its membership?"

If this vote is strongly favorable, USSP will turn its efforts toward an appropriate selection mechanism, and bring that back to the Senate for a vote in the Fall. But in order to gain that sense of the Senate, the Executive Committee thought it best to divide the issue of the merits of adding APs, separate from the question of what mechanism might be involved in doing so.

Article II — Faculty Representation

- **Section 1.** The faculty electorate are those members of the academic staff who are directly engaged in and responsible for the educational function of the University; ordinarily this will involve teaching and research. Specifically, the faculty electorate shall consist of all persons of the campus non-visiting academic staff, other than persons holding administrative appointments in excess of one-half time, who:
 - a. Hold the academic rank or title of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor, have at least a one-half time appointment, and are paid by the University; or
 - b. Hold the academic rank or title of instructor, have a full-time appointment, are paid by the University, and are not candidates for a degree from this University; or
 - c. Are appointed as and hold positions with titles other than those described in (a) and (b) above, have a full-time appointment, are paid by the University, are not candidates for a degree from this University, and, in the determination of the Senate, are directly engaged in and responsible for the educational function of the University, ordinarily involving teaching and research; or
 - d. Are retired members of the campus academic staff with the title of emeritus, and would otherwise be eligible for inclusion in the faculty electorate. However, retired members shall not be counted for purposes of the provisions of Sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Article.

Executive officers of departments or similar units, and assistant or associate executive officers of such units, who are otherwise eligible, shall not be excluded from the faculty electorate because they hold administrative appointments in excess of one-half time.

- **Section 2.** All persons included in the faculty electorate shall be eligible for election to the Senate, without distinction on the basis of rank or other criteria. Each member of the electorate shall be entitled to cast one vote for each open senatorial position apportioned to the member's voting unit; there shall be no cumulative voting.
- **Section 3.** Elections shall be held on the basis of faculty voting units. A faculty voting unit is the smallest academic unit, such as the department or similar unit, in each college or analogous academic division that has at least seven members of the faculty electorate.
- **Section 4.** A voting unit having seven members of the faculty electorate is entitled to elect one senator from its membership. For each 12 members of the faculty electorate over the initial seven, the unit shall elect an additional senator. Prior to each election, the Senate shall retain or adjust the numbers 7 or 12 or both by whole numbers to ensure that after such election the total number of senators from the faculty electorate shall be as close to 200 as possible.
- **Section 5.** Academic units having fewer than seven members of the faculty electorate shall be combined with or attached to other units within the college or other analogous educational division in which the unit is located, in such a way as to ensure opportunity for full participation by all members of the faculty electorate.
- **Section 6.** Each faculty voting unit shall provide to its faculty electorate a nominating ballot containing the names of all those eligible to vote in the unit. Each member of the unit's faculty electorate shall be entitled to cast one nominating vote for each open senatorial position apportioned to the unit; there shall be no cumulative voting. The voting unit shall then prepare an election ballot containing the names of those who received the highest number of nominating votes and who are willing to serve. The number of names on the election ballot shall equal twice the number of those to be elected or all of those nominated, if the number of those nominated is less than twice the number to be elected. The nominees receiving the highest numbers of votes shall be deemed elected.