

Likely Faculty Governance Committee Motion for April Meeting:

The Faculty Governance Committee has in its first charge to continue the work of several previous FGC's and "Review and revise Article II, Section 2 of the Faculty Senate bylaws." We had a lengthy and productive discussion at the Oct. 27, 2005 Senate meeting focused mostly on two issues: at-large positions and the size of the Senate. This discussion was followed up with an email from the Chair of the FGC inviting all Senators to share their views. Twenty-five responses were received. Based on what we learned in the discussion and from the responses, the **FGC brings to the Senate a motion that includes the proposed revisions to Bylaws II.2. This revision consists of: 1) a new method of determining membership, 2) the support procedures to implement this new method, and 3) a simplification of the section 2 language.**

***** *Start of Bylaws change* *****

Section 2. Memberships and Elections

A. Membership

The Faculty Senate shall consist of members representing the academic units of TCU: AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences, M. J. Neeley School of Business, College of Communication, School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Science and Engineering. Each academic unit shall be allocated one Senator for every nine full-time faculty in the unit. An additional seat will be allocated for 5 or more full-time faculty beyond multiples of nine.

B. Term of Office and Elections

1. The Faculty Election Committee (Constitution II.2.D) shall have the following duties:
 - a. determine who is eligible to vote for and to serve on the Faculty Senate;
 - b. oversee the election process;
 - c. determine, every three years, the apportionment of Senators to colleges based on the official faculty list received from the Office of the Provost;
 - d. monitor attendance of Senators at meetings and take corrective action regarding absences if necessary;
 - e. appoint Senators for academic units unable to fill their allocated seats or which have Senators who have resigned. The appointee must have been a candidate in a recent election but may be from any academic unit. The Faculty Election Committee shall strive to maintain proportional distribution among academic units.
2. The term of office of elected senators shall be three years; appointed Senators shall complete the term to which they were appointed.
3. The elections shall proceed as follows:
 - a. By the seventh week of Spring Semester, the Faculty Election Committee shall contact by email all eligible faculty requesting their response concerning willingness to serve on the Senate.

- b. By the ninth week, a list of candidates for each academic unit shall be created from all the names of that unit's willing faculty. Voting instructions shall specify that a valid ballot will contain votes up to the number of open positions in the unit.
- c. The Faculty Election Committee shall resolve any inconclusive election in an academic unit by conducting a second election. The ballot shall consist of at least one more candidate than the number of seats to be filled. These candidates shall be those who previously received the most votes. Any inconclusive results of a second election shall be resolved by the Faculty Election Committee.
- d. Election results shall be announced to the faculty by the twelfth week of the Semester.

***** *End of Bylaws change* *****

To ensure an orderly transition from the current Bylaws to the proposed ones, the following additional steps should be enacted:

- 1. Those senators currently in office will finish out their terms.
- 2. The revised Bylaws will be used as the governing document of the Senate for the purpose of elections in Spring 2007, while the 2006-2007 Faculty Governance Committee works to bring the Constitution (II.2.A.2) in line with the Bylaws and have the new material printed in the official Handbook for Faculty and Staff.
- 3. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall review the effectiveness of the revised Bylaws in three years.
- 4. The three-year cycle of the apportionment process shall begin in 2007.

Feb. 14, 2006