

## **FGC Working Document:**

### **A New Model for the Size and Representation for the TCU Faculty Senate**

The Faculty Governance Committee wishes to discuss with the Senate our ideas for a new model for the size and representation of the Faculty Senate. We bring no formal motions today. Our goal, rather, is to present our ideas and to receive Senators' comments and suggestions, in the hope of returning with a revised-and-improved formal motion in January or February.

#### **Idea**

We would like the Senate to consider a strictly proportional method of representation:

- Maintain our current ratio 11:1 ratio of full-time faculty members to Senators
- Remove the two requirements stipulated in the last sentence of Article II, Section 1, Part A of the Senate Bylaws (the "no less than three Senators per unit" rule and the "one new Senator from each unit must be elected during each election cycle" rule)
- Eliminate at-large positions (hence Article II, Section 2, Part B-7 of the Senate Bylaws, stipulating the election of members at large)

#### **Rationale**

We believe that a proportional system would create more equitable representation across units and a more engaged and productive Senate, especially within each of the standing committees.

#### **Implications**

- A smaller Senate (e.g., 38 rather than 51 for 2005-2006) and fewer Senators assigned to each standing committee (e.g., roughly 6 per committee rather than 9)
- During the initial implementation, all current Senators would be allowed to complete their terms. The size of the Senate would thus fall gradually over the next three years.
- The Senate would need to develop a new policy to address the question of unfilled seats (e.g., to allow empty seats to sit open, or to stipulate a procedure for filling them, perhaps with the proviso that any Senator appointed to fill an open seat would automatically be reallocated to her home unit at the end of her first year on the Senate, thus returning the open seat to the original unit for the next election cycle).

**What would the current Senate look like under the proposed plan?**

	<b>Full-Time Faculty (Fall 2004)</b>	<b>"Unit" Senators</b>	<b>At-Large Senators</b>	<b>Total Senators</b>	<b>Senators under New Proposal</b>
<b>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</b>	126	12	4	16	11
<b>Business</b>	56	5	0	5	5
<b>Communication</b>	27	3	2	5	2
<b>Education</b>	22	3	0	3	2
<b>Fine Arts</b>	51	5	1	6	5
<b>Health &amp; Human Sciences</b>	53	6	2	8	5
<b>Science &amp; Engineering</b>	87	8	0	8	8
<b>Total</b>	422	42	9	51	38

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Academic Excellence Committee</b>	9	6
<b>Committee on Committees</b>	10	8
<b>Faculty Governance Committee</b>	8	6
<b>Student Relations Committee</b>	9	6
<b>Tenure, Promotion &amp; Grievance Committee</b>	9	6
<b>Special Assignments (BAC, CIC, COIA, HMVV)</b>	6	6
<b>Total</b>	51	38