

**Faculty Governance Committee  
Motions on the Structure of the Senate  
For March 2005 Faculty Senate Consideration**

The following motions relate to Articles I and II of the Bylaws of the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate (page 18 of the *Handbook for Faculty and Staff, 2004-2005*).

**Rationale for the Motions:**

**Motion 1.** The current handbook does not specify a Senate size. Rather it specifies a ratio of Senators to the size of faculty in a unit (1 senator for each 11 faculty members is specified). Thus, the number of Senators will change, not because of a change in the number of Senators needed, but as the size of the faculty in a unit changes. It makes more sense to set the size of the Senate based on the number needed to perform the duties of the Senate. The motion sets the size at 43, which provides for an executive committee (five members), seven senators for each of the five committees (35), and three additional members for special assignments (currently budget, athletics, and HMVV). Provision for changes in the size is also included.

**Motion 2.** The motion makes all Senate representation approximately proportional to the size of the faculty of the various units and eliminates the at-large representation. A question might be, why eliminate the at-large seats? To us a better question is, why should we have at-large seats? No one that we have talked to has identified a particularly good reason for at-large representation. Proportional representation seems like a good idea so that all issues can be examined from the prospective of all the units and so a better identification of all potential advantages and disadvantages of possible actions can obtain from the prospective of all units. There seemed to be nothing of consequence gained from having some number of Senators (currently nine, almost 20 percent of the Senators) that are selected by at-large voting. In fact, the current election process seems to potentially skew the election of at-large to the larger units, since the at-large candidates are selected from the top six candidates in the regular election and are elected by the faculty as a whole. The number of Senators from each unit should be approximately proportional to the number of faculty in that unit.

**Motion 3.** We recommend deletion of a sentence that dictated Senate representation from AddRan. We could not identify a reason for the sentence, and it may be a carryover from the old AddRan structure. It seemed inappropriate for the Bylaws to restrict or dictate membership from AddRan or any other unit, although a unit might wish to define its own restrictions.

**Motion 4.** Currently, there is supposed to be one Senator for each 11 (it will be about one for each 10 if motion 1 passes) faculty members of a unit. However, if a unit does not have enough faculty members interested in serving on the Senate, there is no provision for filling any resulting unfilled allocated slot. Motion 4 suggest a mechanism for filling unfilled allocated positions. (Article 2 Section B item 10 specifies the mechanism for filling vacancies that occur between elections).

**Motions**

*We move the following changes in the structure of the Faculty Senate as described in the Bylaws:*

1. The size of the Senate is set at 43, with any change in size to be recommended by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and approved by the Senate as circumstances dictate.
2. Elimination of the at-large Senate seats so that all seats are allocated approximately proportionally to the size of the faculty in the various units. The at-large seats would be eliminated through attrition as the current holders' terms expire. The Executive Committee is charged with determining procedures for maintaining approximately proportional representation of each unit.
3. Elimination of the sentence, "No academic unit, or division of AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences, shall be allocated fewer than three members, with at least one member elected at each regular interval."
4. Addition of the sentence, "If an academic unit does not have enough faculty members interested in serving on the Faculty Senate to fill its allocated slots, the Faculty Election Committee will fill any open position with interested members from other units with the objective of maintaining nearly proportional representation."

If the Faculty Senate approves these motions, the Senate will consider wording changes in the Bylaws that would result from approving the motions during Spring 2005.