

Motions on the Structure of the Senate
Faculty Governance Committee – May 5, 2005

The following motions relate to Article II of the Bylaws of the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate (page 18 of the *Handbook for Faculty & Staff, 2004-2005*). Attached is a description of the changes in wording of the Bylaws that would be required by the changes if the motions are approved.

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 normal size at the number currently needed (45), which provides for an executive committee (5 members), seven senators for each of the five committees (35), and additional members for special assignments (5 - currently two each for budget and HMVV, and one for athletics). The term “normal” allows for the possibility that if fewer than 45 faculty members wish to serve, a smaller number can constitute a Senate. Provision for temporary changes in the size as changes in needs or other circumstances dictate is also included. The motion allows the Executive Committee, with Senate approval, to temporarily change the number of Senators. A permanent change requires a change in the ByLaws. In addition, this motion notes the election of members from the academic units of TCU in a complete sentence and deletes the incomplete language found in the old ByLaws.

Motion 1 sets a Senate size rather than a ratio of Senators to faculty – retaining approximately proportional representation from the academic units comprising TCU.

Motion 2 and 5. The motion makes all Senate representation approximately proportional to the size of the faculty of the various units and eliminates the at-large representation. Proportional representation seems like a good idea so that all issues can be examined from the perspective of all the units and so that a better identification of all potential advantages and disadvantages of possible actions can be obtained from the perspective 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. This process potentially produces over representation from the larger units. Completely proportional representation seemed to be a better situation. The at-large seats would be eliminated through attrition as the current at-large Senators’ terms expire.

Motion 3. We recommend deletion of a sentence that dictated Senate representation from AddRan. 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 3 also eliminates the minimum of three Senators from each academic unit regardless of the number of faculty in the unit. A minimum is not consistent with basing the Senate on proportional representation. Deletion of sentences in Article II, sections 2.B.1 and 2.B.3 are proposed because, with the removal of a three Senator minimum, there is no reason for the statement about electing one-third of Senators from each unit in each of three years.

Motion 3 suggests that the Senate should not dictate the composition of representation from a unit.

Motion 4. Under the current partially proportional structure or the proposed proportional structure, 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 provides a mechanism for filling unfilled allocated positions. (Article II.2.B.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. **(Addition) The Faculty Senate shall consist of a sufficient number of Senators to conduct business of the Senate. The normal size of the Senate is 45 members. A temporary change in the number of members can be recommended by the Senate Executive Committee and approved by vote of the Faculty Senate.**

(Addition) Members are elected from the academic units comprising TCU.

(Deletion) “Each academic unit is allocated one member in the Faculty Senate for every eleven full-time memers in that unit, with an additional seat allocated when there are six or more full-time faculty beyond multiples of eleven.” (currently in Article II.2.A) (eliminates wording that sets the size of the Senate on a ratio and thus based on the size of faculty).

2. **(Addition)** The number of Senators from a unit should be approximately proportional to the number of faculty in the unit. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate determines the appropriate procedures to maintain such representation.
3. **(Deletions)** “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” (currently in Article II.2.A); “. . . with the exceptions provided in B.3 below” (currently in Article II.2.B.1); “In order to preserve the principle that approximately one-third of the members of a school or college are newly elected each year, the Faculty Election Committee may either postpone deleting a seat for one year, or may declare a new seat to be for less than three years” (currently in Article II.2.B.3)
4. **(Addition)** If an academic unit does not have enough faculty members willing to serve on the Faculty Senate to fill its allocated slots, the Faculty Election Committee will fill any open position with willing members from other units with the objective of maintaining approximately proportional representation.
5. **(Deletion)** “During the first half of April members at large shall be elected from the eligible and willing-to-serve list, who have not been elected to the Senate. The names of the top six candidates, plus ties, shall appear on the final at-large ballot. The final election shall be held during the second half of April. Each member of the faculty qualified to vote shall be permitted to vote for three of the candidates. A tie vote in the final election shall be broken by lot by the Faculty Election Committee.” (currently in Article II.2.B.7)