

FACULTY SENATE MOTION II-M2

Introduced by: James Tucker
Date: 9-15-97

Text of motion:

Move to amend the Constitution of the Faculty Senate to remove the words "full-time" from Sections 2 and 10, which are the only two places in the Constitution where "full-time" appears as a modifier for the phrase "tenure-track faculty."

Explanation:

The inclusion of the phrase "full-time" to modify the phrase "tenure-track faculty" appears to be a mistake because it creates the following inconsistency in the Constitution. Section 2 states that each year "every tenure-track member" of a department is nominated to be included on the ballot and can vote in the election for Senator. However, Section 2 also states that the number of senators to which a department is entitled is determined by the number of "full-time tenure track faculty" in the said department. This creates an inconsistency whereby part-time tenure-track faculty members are not counted in the department's senate constituency and yet are eligible to serve as senator and to vote in senate elections. Section 10 further stipulates that meetings of the Faculty Senate are "open to all full-time tenure-track faculty." It adds, "Others may be present only on invitation of the Agenda Committee." Taken literally, this would mean that a tenure-track faculty member who happens to be part-time can be elected to a term on the Senate but cannot attend its meetings without invitation.

It appears that the operative category determining representation by and participation in the Faculty Senate is that of "tenure-track faculty," regardless of part-time or full-time status. In practice there are very few tenure-track faculty who are part-time. Reasons for reduction in time have included phasing out of teaching in anticipation of retirement or the temporary reduction in teaching for family or personal reasons.

Senate Action: Passed Vote: unanimously

Chair's Verification: James Tucker Date: 9-29-97

Forwarded to: Sallie Richer Date: 9-29-97
Passed

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Responsible for follow-up: Sallie Richer

Constitution needs to be updated.