



Date: February 17, 2015

Memo to: Michael Hengerer
Chair, University Senate Committee on Organization and Governance (SCOG)

From: Ann Marie Mauro
Chairperson, N/C-Faculty Senators Council
A/Y 2014-2015

Subject: N/C-Faculty Senators Council Response to SCOG Questionnaire

The N/C-Faculty Senators Council submits the attached response to the University Senate Committee on Organization and Governance regarding Council Input to Senate Self-Evaluation.

cc: Lynn Videka, Chair of the Deans Council
Raghu Sundaram, Chair of the T-Faculty Senators Council
Jules O'Connor, Chair of the Student Senators Council
David Vintinner, Chair of the Administrative Management Council
Warren Jelinek, Senate Committee on Organization and Governance

N/C-FSC Steering Committee Members:
Randy Mowry, N/C-FSC Vice Chairperson
Fred Carl
David Elcott
Mary Killilea
Susan Stehlik
Patrick Ying

RESPONSES TO SCOG QUESTIONNAIRE RE: COUNCIL AND SENATE STRUCTURE

In the process of adding the Full-Time Non-Tenure Track/Contract Faculty Senators Council to the University Senate, concern was raised that the Senate would be too large at 127 members as the maximum should be 120 members. Quite simply, this assumption is untested.

Question 1:

How many senators are needed to carry out your functions?

We have 27 elected Senators with one vacancy, and 36 elected Alternate Senators with nine open seats to be filled. We have placed representatives on all of the University Senate, university, and Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty Senators Council (T-FSC) committees that offered have our council representation. However, our true need is yet to be determined, as we have not yet fully developed our Full-Time Nontenure Track/Contract Faculty Senators Council (N/C-FSC) committee structure. We currently have a Steering Committee and five (5) ad hoc committees. The N/C-FSC has successfully filled 84 positions with Senators/Alternate Senators on the 28 aforementioned committees at the various levels. Given that additional N/C-FSC committees are likely to be needed with more slots to be filled, the need for our council's representation far exceeds the size of our elected members, including both Senators and Alternate Senators.

Would a reduction hinder your ability to carry out your functions?

Given our current size and the need for representation on numerous committees as stated above, in addition to an expected increase once our N/C-FSC committee structure is developed, a reduction would likely hinder our council's ability to carry out its work effectively and efficiently.

Question 2:

How are your representatives chosen?

The seven (7) Steering Committee members, including a Chair and Vice-Chair, were elected following nominations and elections at our second N/C-FSC meeting following the initial formation of our new council. The Steering Committee solicits and makes nominations and appointments for the aforementioned committees, as needed. The full council is then informed of all appointments at the subsequent N/C-FSC meeting.

Question 3:

How do Alternates function in the Council?

Alternate Senators are welcome to attend and participate in discussions at all meetings of the full N/C-FSC. They participate in consensus votes, and cast formal votes only if an Alternate Senator is in attendance in place of a designated Senator. Alternate Senators having full voting privileges on committees upon which they have membership.

Do Alternate senators have specified roles?

Yes, Alternate Senators may serve on the various university, University Senate, T-FSC, and N/C-FSC committees.

Question4: Possible mechanisms to reduce our Council?

As a new University Senate council in existence for only five months, it is premature for us to respond to this question until we have had an opportunity to fully develop our own governance structure.

5. Please comment

We strongly recommend that questions regarding the size and structure of the University Senate be addressed after we have had at least two years working with the existing new structure. Given the steady increases in faculty and students over the past decade or more, increased representation from these constituencies seems reasonable and necessary. The N/C-FSC has been working collaboratively with the T-FSC to find ways to streamline our common work and processes when it is feasible to do so.