

1. The By-Laws & Elections Committee submits the following resolution to the College Senate:

To recommend that Article III, Section C, Part 3 be changed from:

"Nine members of the College Faculty (Article II, Section A and B) elected at large by a majority vote of the College Faculty; and"

to

"Seven members of the College Faculty (Article II, Section A and B) elected at large by a majority vote of the College Faculty; and"

Rationale

Last Year the College Senate approved, and the campus confirmed, a change to Article III C to read:

"Faculty members shall be the majority membership of the College Senate. The College Senate shall only include the following groups: Faculty (consisting of the four schools and the library), professional staff members, support staff members, students, and administrators (non-voting), with specific members as follows" (details not provided here, but they remained unchanged in the By-Laws). However, this approved change was potentially inconsistent with the membership of the Senate. The 2006-7 By-Laws and Elections Committee was charged with the responsibility of reconciling this potential inconsistency.

Current Membership in the College Senate stands at 55 members. The breakdown of the current Senate (in terms of membership) presently stands as follows:

❖ Faculty – 27 members

- 6 Senators from each of the four schools (24 in total)
- 2 University Senators
- 1 Librarian

❖ Staff & Students – 19 members

- 6 for Professional Staff
- 1 for Support Staff
- 12 students

This leaves 9 “At Large Senators” seats in the Senate. They can be filled from all the contingencies above. If they were to be filled by all staff then the makeup of the Senate makeup would be:

❖ 27 Faculty

❖ 28 Staff & Students

The College Senate would not be in compliance with its by-laws. To bring us to compliance there are a couple options:

- increase the size of the Senate proportionally
- decrease the size of the Senate proportionally

As part of its charge this year, the By-Laws & Elections Committee has looked at and discussed this issue and is recommending a small reduction in the size of Senate, primarily based on the survey administered last year where the general opinion of the campus was to leave the Senate "about the same size". Since the sense of the college community was to leave it "about the same size", the By-Laws & Elections Committee felt that the best way to bring the Senate into compliance was to reduce it in a way that kept the present contingences (faculty, staff, & students) in tact (in terms of their current numbers), but allowed for the faculty to remain in the majority. The only way to do so was to reduce the size of the "*At Large*" contingency which is currently at nine (9) members. If the Senate accepts this option, we would be in compliance and would then bring this forward as a referendum to the college community. Doing so this way, also allows for a minimal change in our current election procedures as well, where the only change in would take place in the election for "*At Large*" Senator Race over the next two years. Currently two (2) "*At Large*" positions would be up for election this year (please review the roster that was sent to you with your agenda). If our recommendation is accepted, the College Community would vote for one (1) "*At Large*" Senator this year instead of two (2) this year for a three (3) year term (2007-10).

Next year, there would be the elimination of the second At Large senator, reducing the total number of At Large senators to seven (7). In addition, one of the three individuals elected would be elected to a two (2) year term (2008-10). This would allow us to systematically adjust the elections so that we would be holding elections for the "*At Large*" Senator in subsequent years on a two (2), two (2), three (3) basis.

Doing it this way, the committee has addressed the responsibility with which it was charged at the start of this year. Concurrently, the By-Laws & Elections Committee continues its discussion on a separate issue of the "makeup" of the Senate. If you recall, last year their was concern over disenfranchisement and units to be represented in the Senate. As a body, we approved a motion that allowed for all potential disenfranchised faculty, and staff to be fixed by its relevant units (Article II, Part C). The logic behind that motion was to make sure that all voting members (faculty, professional & support

staff) be able to run in two elections. The By-Laws & Elections Committee recognizes that while this motion takes care of disfranchisement & representation, the college is also evolving. The committee continues to examine how best to explore both this issue and representation of graduate students. Both of these are very complex issues and will be continued to be discussed by the current and future By-Laws & Elections Committees.