

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Faculty Senate
From: Jonathan Carlson, Chair, Rules & Bylaws Committee
Date: November 10, 1998
Subject: Proposed amendments to Senate Constitution and Bylaws

Two proposed amendments are attached to this memorandum. The substance and purpose of the amendments is described below.

Proposed amendment to expand eligibility for Senate offices. (Amendment to Article II of the Constitution and Article III of the Bylaws, attached).

Substance of the proposed amendment:

At the present time, only current members of the Senate are eligible for election to the offices of secretary and vice president. (The president is the person whose term as vice president is just ending. If the vice president's term on Senate would end at that time, it is automatically extended.)

The proposed amendment i) makes any "present or former" member of the Senate eligible for election to a Senate office, ii) provides that all elected officers will automatically be members of the Senate and Council, and iii) provides for the immediate past President to continue as a member of the Senate and Council (as under current practice).

Purpose of the proposed amendment:

The proposed amendment is intended to:

i) broaden eligibility for Senate offices and thereby increase the ability of the Elections Committee to identify qualified and interested candidates;

ii) ensure the eligibility of faculty members who are respected participants in faculty governance activities, but whose Senate terms may be ending and/or whose service in the Senate (and thus as an officer) may otherwise be precluded by the limit of 2 consecutive Senate terms.

iii) continue current practice whereby Senate officers (including the immediate past president) are automatically members of the Senate and Council.

Proposed amendment to require Elections Committee to report election results to Committee on Committees (amendment to Bylaws Article V).

Substance of the proposed amendment:

The proposed amendment would require the Committee on Elections to report Senate election results to the Committee on Committees "not later than one week" following the close of balloting.

Purpose of the amendment:

The Committee on Committees believes that it is desirable to give new members of the Faculty Senate the opportunity to serve on various committees. Currently, that is difficult to do, as Senate election results are often not announced until the Committee on Committees has finalized its recommendations for committee appointments. The proposed amendment, *while not a complete solution to the problem*, ensures that the Bylaws remind the Committee on Elections to report election results to the Committee on Committees in a timely fashion. (It is anticipated that other steps might be taken to address this problem. The proposed amendment is offered as an easy way to create an institutional policy about the matter without unduly disrupting current election and committee-selection procedures.)

NOTE ON PROCEDURE

All the proposed amendments require a majority vote of the Faculty Senate. The amendment to the Constitution will require, in addition, approval by a majority of those voting in a faculty referendum, approval by the President of the University, and approval by the Board of Regents.

Proposed Amendments on Eligibility for Senate Offices to Article II of the Constitution and Article III of the Bylaws

Article II of the Constitution

3. **Terms.** A member of the Senate is elected for a three-year term and may be re-elected to a second term of three years. Following one or more years of absence from the Senate, a faculty member becomes eligible once more to serve two consecutive terms. A first term may be automatically extended by election to the Council as specified in Article III, 3 below. In such a case a member of the Senate may be reelected only to an abbreviated term, the length of which is the unexpired portion of the second three years of eligibility. Either a first term or a second consecutive term may be automatically extended by election as ~~vice president~~ an officer of the Senate as specified in paragraph 5, A below.

5. **Officers.**
 - A. The officers of the Senate are a president, a vice president, and a secretary. Any present or former member of the Senate shall be eligible to be elected as an officer. Any person elected as an officer of the Senate shall automatically be a member of both the Senate and the Faculty Council. Terms are for one year and begin with the adjournment of the organizational meeting. The vice president and the secretary shall be elected ~~from its membership~~ by a majority of those present and voting at the organizational meeting. The president shall be the person whose term as vice president is just ending. ~~If the past vice president's service in the Senate would otherwise end at this time, it shall automatically be extended for one year.~~ No one may hold two offices simultaneously or serve consecutive terms in the same office. If the president's service in the Senate or Council would otherwise end at the conclusion of his or her term as president, it shall be automatically extended for one year.

 - B. If the office of president becomes vacant, the vice president shall become president for the remainder of that term and remain president for the following term. If the office of vice president becomes vacant, it shall may remain vacant until the end of the term, and in which case the Senate shall elect a president as well as a vice president and secretary at its organization meeting. Alternatively, at any time during a vacancy in the office of the vice president, the Faculty Council may call an election to fill the vice presidency, and a vice president shall then be elected ~~from the Senate membership~~ at the next regularly-scheduled Senate meeting, provided that at least 10 days notice of the election has been given to the Senate membership. If the office of president becomes vacant when the office of vice president is also vacant, the secretary shall convene a special meeting of the

Senate with at least 10 days notice (unless the organization meeting is sooner) at which a president shall be elected ~~from its membership~~ to serve the remainder of the term. That person shall be eligible for election as president for the following term. If the office of secretary becomes vacant, the president shall appoint an acting secretary for the remainder of the term. In the event that any vacancy in any Senate office occurs in a manner not contemplated by these rules, the Faculty Council may call an election to fill the vacant office. ~~from the Senate membership~~. The election may be held at a special meeting of the Senate called for that purpose, or at a regularly-scheduled Senate meeting, provided that at least 10 days notice of the election has been given to the Senate membership.

Article III of the Bylaws

Section 6. The Committee on Elections, consisting of five members with staggered three year terms, presents to the first Senate meeting of the spring semester a list of faculty members eligible to vote, a list of Senate positions to be filled, and a list of persons eligible for each position. At the same time the Committee determines the number of positions to be provided on the Council for each represented college. The Committee supervises all elections and decides tie votes by lot. The Committee also presents, at the regular April meeting of the Senate, at least two nominations for the offices of vice president and secretary of the Senate, and, if the current year's vice president is unable to succeed to the presidency as specified in the constitution, then also for the position of president of the Senate. ~~Nominations are to be made from the membership of the Senate.~~ Nominations for Senate offices are to be made from faculty members eligible to vote in Senate elections who are also current or former members of the Senate. The Committee solicits suggestions from the members of the Senate for its consideration in preparing the slate of candidates. It seeks short autobiographical sketches from the nominees and distributes copies of these to the members of the Senate before the meeting in April.

Proposed Amendment on Notification of Election Results

Article V of the Bylaws

Section 2. Not later than one week following the close of balloting for election to Senate and Council membership, the Committee on Elections shall report the results of the election to the Committee on Committees. The Committee on Elections ~~reports~~ shall also report the results of the voting for Senate and Council membership to the Senate in ~~at~~ its regular meeting in April ~~the results of the voting for the Senate and Council.~~