A regular meeting of the University Committee on Academic Governance was held on November 3, 2022 at 3:15 p.m. via Zoom with Chairperson Jack Lipton presiding. The agenda was approved as presented. The draft minutes of the October 20, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

Chairperson Lipton, Secretary for Academic Governance Tyler Silvestri, and Senior Associate Provost Thomas Jeitschko gave remarks.

Bylaw Interpretation re: Faculty Senate Election Process [2223-12]

Per section 4.3.4. of the Bylaws for Academic Governance, the University Committee on Academic Governance has the authority “to interpret these Bylaws subject to review by University Council.” The committee received a request for interpretation regarding the relationship between sections 1.1.2.5. and 4.2.1.10.

Section 1.1.2.5. reads, “A full-time fixed-term faculty member who has served at least three consecutive years and a full-time specialist who has served at least three consecutive years may be elected to an academic governance body, with the exception of the University Committee on Faculty Tenure, as a representative of any unit in which the person holds faculty status.” Section 4.2.1.10. reads, “Where faculty members of a Standing Committee are elected in college elections, nominating procedures shall be specified in college bylaws. Colleges may, in their bylaws, authorize the election to any Standing Committee, except the University Committee on Faculty Tenure, of full-time fixed-term faculty who have served at least three consecutive years, or of specialists in the continuing appointment system.”

The question presented was whether academic specialists need to have served three years to be elected to a standing committee (as section 1.1.2.5. states) or whether being in the continuing appoint system is enough, as section 4.2.1.10. suggests.

The committee recognized the ambiguity and potential conflict. Following debate, UCAG agreed by consent to amend the Bylaws as such:

1.1.2.1. The voting faculty in the election of University-level councils and committees shall be all regular faculty, health professions faculty, and FRIB/NSCL faculty. Voting faculty also includes full-time fixed-term faculty who have served at least three consecutive years and full-time academic specialists who have served at least three consecutive years or are in the continuing appointment system. Voting faculty must be engaged in academic activities of the university.

1.1.2.5. A full-time fixed-term faculty member who has served at least three consecutive years and a full-time specialist who has served at least three consecutive years or is in the continuing appointment system may be elected to an
academic governance body, with the exception of the University Committee on Faculty Tenure, as a representative of any unit in which the person holds faculty status.

4.2.1.10. Where faculty members of a Standing Committee are elected in college elections, nominating procedures shall be specified in college bylaws.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

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Tyler Silvestri
Secretary for Academic Governance

Approved: