

## **Recommendation from Rules and Procedures Committee**

### **Changes to OSU Charter and Bylaws to convert Faculty Council to Faculty Senate**

**Professor A. H. Johannes, Chair**

**Professor Terry Lehenbauer**

**Professor Kouider Moktari**

**Professor Lionel Raff**

Having obtained the input from the General Faculty at the meeting Friday afternoon, November 21, 2003, the Rules and Procedures Committee has modified its original recommendations. We now recommend to the Faculty Council the approval of the attached items.

## **Recommended Changes**

1. The Faculty Council be renamed Faculty Senate.
2. The President of the University no longer serves as permanent president of the Faculty Senate. He/she has a standing invitation to attend all meetings of the Senate. If the President's schedule does not permit his/her attendance, the provost or an appropriate vice-president shall attend as the representative of the President. With this change, the President of the University will no longer be considered an officer of the General Faculty.
3. We change to a two-year term for the Chair of the General Faculty who will be entitled to vote. To implement this action without requiring six years of service from Faculty Senate officers, the following changes are recommended by the Rules and Procedures Committee:

The current office of Vice-Chair shall be modified and a one new Faculty Senate office shall be created. The new office shall be called "Chair-elect". The modifications of the office of Vice-Chair are that he/she will serve a term of three years and not be immediately eligible for re-election as Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair will not assume the office of Chair of the General Faculty. Elections of the Vice-Chair will be staggered with the election of the Secretary to provide continuity.

A new officer of the General Faculty shall be created. This officer shall be known as the Chair-elect. The Chair-elect will be elected at the end of the first year of the sitting Chair's term of office. The Chair-elect will serve a term of one year after he/she will assume the office of Chair of the General Faculty for a term of two years.

The above changes have the following advantages:

- a. Only one additional year of service is required from the Chair and Chair-Elect.
- b. It provides a stronger platform for the Chair to execute initiatives that advance faculty concerns and initiatives.
- c. The procedure ensures that there are always four officers on the Executive Committee of the Senate. During the Chair's first year of service, the officers are Vice-Chair, Chair, Secretary, and past Chair. During the second year of the Chair's term, the officers are the Vice-Chair, the Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Secretary.
- d. The plan provides for one additional member of the Faculty Senate. This provides broader representation and gives us one additional voice.

4. To obtain broader representation from the General Faculty and to promote a broader rotation and diversity in leadership positions of the Faculty Senate, we recommend that at least one of the two nominations advanced by the Rules and Procedures Committee for Vice-Chair and Chair-elect be from the general OSU faculty who are not currently serving on the Faculty Senate. We further recommend that the number of signatures required for nomination of additional candidates for these offices be reduced from fifty (50) to fifteen (15).

5. We recommend the implementation of electronic balloting for all Faculty Senate positions.

6. Changes to the 60-day rule for filling vacancies are proposed to accommodate the situation when the vacancy occurs one month prior to or during the summer term.

7. The wording of many sections of the Charter and Faculty Council bylaws must be altered to implement and conform to the above recommendations. These are detailed in the two attached documents. The first lists the changes that must be made to the Charter and Bylaws of the General Faculty. To submit these recommendations to the General Faculty Requires a two-thirds vote of the Faculty Council. The second document lists the changes that must be made to the bylaws of the Faculty Council. These changes can be approved by a majority vote of the Council. The Rules and Procedures Committee recommends this vote be taken prior to the submission of the recommended changes to the Charter to the General Faculty. It should be understood that a positive vote on changes to the Faculty Council bylaws be contingent upon approval of the changes to the Charter by the General Faculty.