

## UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

At the December 11, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee presented an amendment to the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate on the Election of Officers, creating a two-year leadership position, Vice Chair/Chair-elect. The proposed amendment was moved for approval. A vote on the motion was postponed at the January 22, 2015 Faculty Senate meeting to allow a referendum on the corresponding changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate.

### Per Article VII – AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

... amendments shall be proposed to the **General Faculty** by a majority of the total voting membership of the Senate, and ratified by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the **General Faculty** voting on the question, excluding abstentions, as determined by a mail ballot conducted by the Executive Committee and by three tellers appointed by the President of the University.

### and BY-LAWS, Section 8. Voting Requirements

8.2 Secret mail ballots of the **General Faculty** shall be conducted either to ratify amendments to the Senate Constitution or to recall Senate actions. They shall be conducted as follows: The Secretary of the Senate shall distribute a ballot to every eligible member of the faculty following a procedure adopted by the Faculty Senate. Mail shall include electronic mail.

The FSEC recommends that the Senate approve that a referendum be conducted on the following changes via electronic ballot distributed to the General Faculty.

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION:

### Article III – Membership

1. The Senate shall consist of designated *ex officio* ~~administrative members, ex officio student~~ members and of elected members of the full-time teaching, library, research and extension faculty, chosen in the approximate ratio of one senator for each 10 full-time faculty members. For the purpose of determining the number of senators to be elected by a college, the library or other unit of the faculty authorized to conduct elections, part-time faculty members shall be counted according to the fraction of full-time which they serve. Any professor, associate professor, assistant professor, or instructor of the full-time teaching, library, research and extension faculty may be elected a member of the Senate. The Senate will provide means by which all eligible faculty members not in a college or the library have the opportunity to vote and to be candidates for election. The President, the Provost, the Vice Provosts, the Vice Presidents, the deans of the colleges and schools, the Dean of Admissions, ~~the person who served as Senate chair during the previous academic year, and~~ the President or in his/her absence, the Vice President of the Student Senate, ~~and~~ the President or in his/her absence, the

Vice President of the Graduate Student Association shall be members of the Senate *ex officio* without the right to vote, but with the right to make and second motions. Other officers of administration, including personnel deans and the directors and assistant directors of the University administrative divisions, shall not be eligible for election to the Senate. #01-02-8; #01-02-12 (Approved by referendum, May 2002) #03-04-10; #06-07-1 (Approved by referendum, April 2007)

#### Article IV – Officers

1. The officers of the Senate shall be a Vice Chair/Chair-elect and a Chair. ~~person and Vice Chairperson~~. The duties of these officers are those usually associated with the titles of Vice Chair and Chair, except as modified or added to in the By-Laws. In the absence of the Chair~~person~~, the Vice Chair/Chair-elect ~~person~~ shall exercise the full powers of the Chair~~person~~. ~~Their term of office shall be one year and they may be elected to succeed themselves once~~ These officers shall be elected in accordance with 5.1 of the Senate By-laws. #01-02-12 (Approved by referendum, May 2002)
2. The faculty members serving as Vice Chair/Chair-elect and as Chair ~~person and Vice Chairperson~~ of the Faculty Senate shall be entitled to reductions of at least one-third and one-half ~~and one-third~~, respectively, of their normal duties. Normal duties include teaching, assigned research, advisement, committee work, thesis direction and other assigned responsibilities. For this reason, faculty members should consult with their appropriate administrative officers prior to acceptance of nomination for these offices. Entitlement should follow automatically upon election, and no further negotiation would be required except for consultation within the department and college to determine how the reduction might best be accomplished.

#### Article V – Executive Committee

1. The Vice Chair/Chair-elect, the Chair, ~~person, Vice Chairperson~~ and four senators elected ~~annually~~ from the elected membership of the Senate in accordance with 5.1 of the Senate By-laws shall constitute the regular members of an Executive Committee. The person who served as chair during the preceding year shall serve as an ex officio Executive Committee member. The Chair~~person~~ of the Senate shall be chair~~person~~ of the Executive Committee. This Committee shall meet on call of the Chair~~person~~, or on request of any two of its members. It shall serve as the steering committee of the Senate and shall represent, or designate persons to represent, the Senate in meetings with the President, Board of Education ~~Governors~~ and other University bodies.

#### Article VI – Meetings

3. Within two weeks after the meeting of the Senate at which the results of elections of new members are announced, a meeting of the newly constituted Senate shall be held ~~to elect officers and Executive Committee members of the ensuing year~~. If a date has not already been set for this meeting in the yearly calendar of Senate meetings, the time and place shall be set by the out-going Chair~~person~~ and Executive Committee. The out-going Chair~~person~~ shall preside at this meeting. Newly elected officers shall assume their duties at the close of this meeting. Out-going senators shall have no vote.