PROPOSED CHANGES TO

THE FACULTY SENATE CONSTITUTION

The Faculty Senate voted on and approved a series of resolutions that recommend changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution. These proposals now come to the general faculty for a vote. In order for the Constitution to be amended “over half of the faculty association members must vote and a proposed amendment must receive a ‘do pass’ from at least two-thirds of those voting.” You are being asked to consider and vote on four different proposals. **The Faculty Senate recommends a vote of “do pass” on all four proposals.** Each proposal below includes the current language, the proposed changes and a rationale.

Here is a link to the resolutions that were approved by Faculty Senate on January 26, 2017.

<http://uca.edu/facultysenate/meeting-schedule-agendas-and-minutes/resolutions-for-senate-1-26-17/>

Here is a link to a summary of these resolutions. <http://uca.edu/facultysenate/meeting-schedule-agendas-and-minutes/bundle-3/>

Faculty can opt out of electronic voting (Survey Monkey) and vote by paper ballot.

* If you elect to vote by paper ballot, please e-mail the Faculty Senate Secretary, Kim Eskola, at keskola@uca.edu. This will be considered an “absentee” ballot. The request must be made prior to 4:30 pm on Friday, March 4th to exempt you from electronic balloting.
* You will receive a paper ballot which can be completed, scanned and e-mailed back to the Faculty Senate Secretary.
* Your ballot must be returned prior to midnight on March 8th as our constitution restricts absentee voting on the last day of voting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CURRENT CONSTITUTION | PROPOSED AMENDMENT |
| **1. ARTICLE III, Section 2**No more than two senators shall be from any single department and no more than two chairs shall be elected from each college. No administrator at the assistant dean or above level shall be eligible to be elected. | **1. ARTICLE III, Section 2**No more than two senators shall be from any single department and no more than two chairs **(or equivalent position)** shall be elected from each college. No administrator at the assistant dean or above level shall be eligible to be elected. |
| **2. ARTICLE III, Section 6**The term of office for newly elected senators shall begin on May 1. | **2. ARTICLE III, Section 6**The term of office for newly elected senators shall begin on **the date of the first called meeting after the end of spring classes or** May 1**, whichever comes first**. |
| **3. ARTICLE IV, Section 5**The president of the senate shall be eligible for reassigned time as approved by the provost, so that the functions of the office may be properly carried out. The secretary-treasurer shall notify the provost of the name of the person selected as senate vice president (president-elect) so that any necessary schedule planning may be effected. | **3. ARTICLE IV, Section 5**The president **and vice president** of the senate shall be eligible for reassigned time as approved by the provost, so that the functions of the office may be properly carried out. The secretary-treasurer shall notify the provost of the name of the person selected as senate vice president (president-elect) so that any necessary schedule planning may be effected. |
| **4. ARTICLE VII**RATIFICATION**Section 1.** This constitution, after approval by a majority of the membership of the faculty council, shall be submitted to faculty at a called meeting. At least fourteen calendar days before that meeting, the council shall provide each member of the faculty with a copy of this constitution.**Section 2.** This constitution shall be considered ratified upon approval by a majority of the faculty members present at the called meeting, by the university president, and by the Board of Trustees of UCA. | **4. ARTICLE VI, Section 5****ADD NEW SECTION TO ARTICLE VI:****Section 5. Subsequent to the approval of an amendment by the Faculty Association, this constitution shall be considered amended upon approval by the university president, and by the Board of Trustees of UCA.****DELETE ARTICLE VII IN ITS ENTIRETY** |
| RATIONALE: The purpose of these amendments is to update the Constitution in order to align the document with current institutional practice and to eliminate outdated references. Each proposed amendment is explained below:1. Since the university has created numerous academic units that are led by individuals who do not carry the title of “chair,” but “director,” “dean,” etc, this amendment recognizes that other equivalent titles exist.2. This change recognizes that the new senate should be constituted immediately after the end of spring classes (before finals) since the spring semester occasionally ends prior to May 1st, due to the university calendar.3. This change recognizes that the workload of the Senate Vice President/President-elect merits—and currently receives—reassigned time.4. Subsequent to its ratification in 1990, Article VII has led to confusion and is no longer necessary. The role of the university president and Board of UCA is now codified in the new section 5 of Article VI that is proposed. **The Faculty Senate recommends a vote of “do pass.”** |

□ DO PASS □ DO NOT PASS □ ABSTAIN

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CURRENT CONSTITUTION | PROPOSED AMENDMENT |
| **ARTICLE III, Section 1, C**Elected1. College Senators: Three (3) Faculty Association members from each academic college of the university shall be elected by a secret ballot of the Faculty Association of the respective colleges in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.2. At-Large Senators: Six (6) Faculty Association members shall be elected by a vote of the entire Faculty Association. | **ARTICLE III, Section 1, C**Elected1. College Senators: Three (3) Faculty Association members from each academic college **and three (3) Faculty Association members from all of the unaffiliated faculty units** of the university shall be elected by a secret ballot of the Faculty Association of the respective academic **~~colleges~~ units** in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.2. At-Large Senators: **~~Six~~ Three (~~6~~3)** Faculty Association members shall be elected by a vote of the entire Faculty Association. |
| RATIONALE: This amendment seeks to the address the long-term lack of representation by faculty members who work in an academic unit not housed within one of the six academic colleges. Currently, faculty in the Honors College, Torreyson Library, and University College do not have guaranteed representation on the Faculty Senate. The dedication of three of the six at-large seats to these faculty will address this lack of representation and parallel the representation enjoyed by the faculty in the six academic colleges. **The Faculty Senate recommends a vote of “do pass.”** |

□ DO PASS □ DO NOT PASS □ ABSTAIN

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CURRENT CONSTITUTION | PROPOSED AMENDMENT |
| **ARTICLE III, Section 3**Elected senators shall serve for a term of three years and vacancies shall be filled by senate appointment until the next regularly scheduled election. However, no person shall serve more than two successive full terms. | **ARTICLE III, Section 1, C**Elected senators shall serve for a term of threeyears and vacancies shall be filled **~~by senate~~****~~appointment until the next regularly scheduled~~****~~election~~** **in accordance with the senate bylaws**.However, no person shall serve more than **~~two~~** **~~successive full terms~~** **seven (7) successive years**.**ARTICLE IV, Section 7C****ADD NEW SECTION 7 TO ARTICLE IV:****Once elected, the vice president and president****shall vacate their positions as college or at-large** **senators in order to lead the senate. Without** **regard to the date of their election to the senate,** **the vice president shall serve two more years:** **one year as vice president, and one year as** **president. After serving as president, a** **senator’s term shall end. The vacancies created** **by their election as officers shall be filled as** **described in Article III.C.3.** |
| RATIONALE: The purpose of these amendments is to increase the pool of potential senate presidents, maintains the active representation within the senate by senators from the units from which the president and vice president are elected from and reduces potential leadership conflict by preventing the immediate past president of the senate from remaining on the senate for one year. Currently, a senator must be in either the first or second year of their term to be elected vice president.Effectively, one-third of the senate is not eligible to be elected to this leadership position. Making this change will increase the potential pool by 33%, and also ensure that the senate president leaves the senate after their year as president in order to more fully dedicate their energy to chairing the Faculty Handbook committee. Once elected as the vice president one no longer participates in senate committees. This often leaves committees short on representation from the unit from which the president and vice president are elected from. Having their electing unit replace them alleviates this representation concern.Currently a sitting president could be in their 2nd of a 3-year term and have one year remaining to serve on the senate – as is the current situation and has happened with other presidents in recent years. By vacating their position as an elected senator from their unit, this removes that possibility.**The Faculty Senate recommends a vote of “do pass.”** |

□ DO PASS □ DO NOT PASS □ ABSTAIN

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CURRENT CONSTITUTION | PROPOSED AMENDMENT |
| **ARTICLE IV, Section 2**Eligibility for election to an office shall be restricted to elected members of the senate. | **ARTICLE IV, Section 2**Eligibility for election to an office shall berestricted to elected members of the senate. **The** **president and vice president shall both hold** **academic tenure at the time of their election as** **officers.** |
| RATIONALE: This change seeks to protect the faculty by ensuring that both the senate president andvice president hold academic tenure at the time of their election. The Senate believes that it isimportant to now codify this requirement in order to protect the individual senators who accept theseleadership positions and to promote the most effective representation of the faculty to the administration.**The Faculty Senate recommends a vote of “do pass.”** |

□ DO PASS □ DO NOT PASS □ ABSTAIN