

**FACULTY SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
FINAL REPORT for 2008-09**

Members: Mark Amos (Chair), Randy Hughes, Mohammad Sayeh, Thomas Shaw, Gerald Spittler, and Brooke Thibeault.

In what will likely prove too brief a respite from its seemingly reexamination of policies concerning the Judicial Review Board, the Governance Committee's efforts fell into two categories: Administrative Searches and Changes to the Faculty Senate's Operating Paper.

**Administrative Searches**

The Governance Committee examined the University's Guidelines for Administrative Search Committees and, in our Resolution on the Role of Faculty and Staff Consultation on Hiring Academic Affairs Administrators, proposed substantive changes, especially with regard to

- providing faculty with general information and education regarding their responsibilities in serving on an administrative search committee
- providing for the submission of supporting argumentation and documentation for the consideration of departments
- re-starting the process should there be insufficient acceptable candidates
- ensuring that supporting documentation was solicited and consolidated by the search committee and appointing administrator
- ensuring that the hiring administrator shall give serious consideration to the recommendations and documentation submitted by faculty and staff (as in 8c above), weighing them against compelling reasons related to affirmative action, finance, or institutional well-being
- ensuring that, once a decision is made, the hiring administrator shall meet with the faculty and staff of the relevant unit or constituency group, or the elected representative body for that group, to explain the decision in light of the faculty and staff's recommendation.

These changes were adopted by the full Senate.

**Changes to the Operating Paper of the Faculty and Faculty Senate**

The Governance Committee generated and the full Senate passed as resolutions three changes in the Faculty Senate's Operating Paper:

1. The rounding of numbers in our current formula for apportioning seats on the Faculty Senate resulted in the loss of one Senator. To prevent a repeat of this situation, the committee examined four other methods for determining apportionment for the Faculty Senate and proposed the Huntington-Hill method (deployed by the U.S. House of Representatives).
2. Using nine criteria discovered and developed by Senator Randy Hughes, the committee examined a variety of methods of conducting Faculty Senate elections electronically. The Senate and the full faculty adopted that change. Our investigations into a particular method were truncated by the discovery that the Senate had entered into an exclusive contract with Applied Research Consultants. No formal proposal for a particular method was submitted.
3. The language defining faculty ranks was changed to include "senior lecturer" and "named Professor" explicitly.

The Senate and the full faculty adopted these changes.

Carrying over to next year's Governance Committee is a draft resolution to change the Operating Paper's apportionment of Non-Tenure Track Faculty so that their Senators represent faculty under continuing contract in the same ratio as tenure/tenure-track faculty are represented.

Respectfully,

Mark Amos  
Chair, Governance Committee