

MEMORANDUM

To: University Faculty Senate

From: Jerry Haky, Chair, Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

Subject: Bylaws changes

Date: February 6, 2015

The Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee recommends the following amendments to the UFS Florida Atlantic University Faculty Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Article VI. Committees; Section A. UFS Standing Committees; 3. Committee on Committees

Proposed: Eliminate Committee on Committees

2. Article III. Members; Section A. Definition of UFS Faculty

Existing: The UFS faculty is composed of all individuals holding full-time, tenured or tenure-earning positions with the ranks of Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor, and all librarians with faculty status.

Proposed: The UFS faculty is composed of all full-time faculty, excluding Visiting positions.

Information

The following information has been collected in an effort to inform the Senate of various positions presented to the Committee in favor of or opposed to the amendments. These are not the only issues that will be raised as the result of an open and thorough discussion on the March 27th UFS meeting. All comments should be addressed to the UFS ASA Arcadia Betancourt at abetancourt@fau.edu. Comments prior to the meeting will be posted on the UFS Home page and presented to the UFS Steering and become a part of the UFS agenda for the March meeting.

1. Eliminate Committee on Committees

Faculty are faced with increased service and administrative responsibilities. Some UFS Committees duties are duplicative (e.g., Athletics), have few members and meet rarely. The Committee on Committees has three (of six) members, has not met in two years and the primary duties for holding elections has been handled electronically and overseen by the UFS President and the Steering Committee. The consensus was to eliminate marginal committees and strengthen the role, faculty participation and responsibility of the critical core committees.

2. Membership in the University Faculty Senate

Background

There are approximately 178 full time non-tenured faculty with various titles, excluding librarians, Henderson Schools and the College of Medicine and Visiting positions:

Assistant Research Professor	2
AssocSchola/Sctist/Eng/ResProf	1
HBOI Assoc. Research Professor	6
HBOI Research Associate	5
HBOI Research Professor	4
Instructor	122
Instructor/Artist in Residence	1
Instructor/Clinical Supervisor	1
Research Associate Professor	1
Research Assistant	1
Research Associate	5
Senior Instructor	28
Clinical Assoc. Prof & Director	1
	178

Consideration

To include some full time non-tenured faculty to be eligible to serve as Senators, if elected by their respective Faculty Assemblies. The following arguments do not reflect the

Arguments in Favor

3. The non-tenured faculty make significant contributions to the University. They represent unique and important professional expertise in teaching and add to the quality of the University curriculum. They often have terminal degrees and contribute to the University's research and service records.

2. The bylaws already recognize full time non-tenured faculty by allowing for all librarians (non-tenured faculty).

3. Graduate College Governance Document provides for membership of non-tenured faculty

C. Membership Criteria

1. **Graduate Faculty.** A faculty member nominated for appointment as Graduate Faculty must meet the following minimum requirements:

a. Hold the rank of Assistant Professor or above (clinical, research scientist/faculty, and affiliate research faculty inclusive).

and

3. **Graduate Lecturer.** A faculty member nominated for appointment as Graduate Lecturer must meet the following minimum requirements:

a. Hold the rank of Instructor, Lecturer or above

4. The consideration of curriculum changes is a major responsibility of faculty. Several college program committees have non-tenure faculty representation and the Graduate Programs Committee has non-tenure voting members.

5. The UFF includes Instructors as voting members.

Arguments Opposed

1. Recognition of full time non-tenured faculty is an endorsement and potential incentive for hiring more non-tenured positions at the expense of tenure track positions.

2. Non-tenured faculty are more subject to pressure from Administration due to their limited employment terms.

3. The assignments of the professorate include scholarly research. They discover new information. This requires them to search out the current frontiers of knowledge in their areas. These facts make them uniquely qualified to innovate and update curriculum

4. Instructors are not assigned scholarly research (with very rare exceptions). Their advice on curriculum, based on in-classroom experience is valuable in determining course content and conduct is valuable, but it does not qualify them to make the ultimate curricular decisions.

5. The inclusion of non-professorate members in the Senate shall dilute the expertise of the professorate to control and create curriculum.