February 10, 2011

Dr. Steven Leslie
Executive Vice President and Provost
MAI 201 (G1000)

Mrs. Patricia Ohlendorf
Vice President for Legal Affairs
MAI 102 (G4800)

Dear Steve and Patti:

The Faculty Council has submitted to President Powers the enclosed “Proposed Changes to the Voting Rights of the General Faculty in the Handbook Of Operating Procedures,” Documents of the General Faculty 8512-8513. This legislation was approved by the Faculty Council at its meeting of January 24, 2011, and by the General Faculty on a no-protest basis on February 7, 2011. Prior to making his decision, the president would like to receive from each of you a written recommendation regarding this legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanking you for your help, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Roeckle
Deputy to the President

CAR/am

Enclosures

cc: President William Powers, Jr.
Dr. Sue Greninger, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council
Ms. Debbie Roberts, Executive Assistant, Office of the General Faculty
Ms. Candice Fischbach, Program Manager, University Policy Office
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE VOTING RIGHTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY IN THE
HANDBOOK OF OPERATING PROCEDURES

Professor Janet Staiger (radio-television-film and committee chair) submitted the following proposal on behalf of the Faculty Rules and Governance Committee recommending changes to the voting rights of the General Faculty. The secretary has classified this as major legislation; it will be presented to the Faculty Council for a vote at its meeting on January 24, 2011. Final approval of this legislation resides with UT System.

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The Faculty Council and General Faculty

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE VOTING RIGHTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY IN THE
HANDBOOK OF OPERATING PROCEDURES

CHAPTER 1 – FACULTY GOVERNANCE
Section I. GENERAL FACULTY
A. Authority and General Functions

{No changes to this section.}

B. Membership
   1. Voting members of the General Faculty shall consist of the following:
      a. All professors, associate professors, and assistant professors.
      b. All instructors and [lecturers] non-tenure track faculty who have had a total of four or more continuous long session semesters of service at these ranks at The University of Texas at Austin[•] and who meet these criteria:
         (1) are appointed at least 50% time as a faculty member at UT Austin during each of those four continuous long session semesters.
         (2) have their primary academic home at UT Austin and not another UT unit, and
         (3) are not students.
      c. Such officers as are designated in the UT System Board of Regents’ Rules and Regulations as being ex officio members of all institutional faculties of The University of Texas System.
      d. Such other officers as the Board of Regents, upon recommendation of the president and the UT System chancellor may designate.
      e. If a voting member’s appointment temporarily drops below the minimum amount of time required for voting membership due to an approved leave of absence without pay, the member’s voting status shall not be affected.

[2.] [A faculty member shall have voting status only on the basis of half-time employment or more at the University.]

[3] 2. Those faculty members designated in Section B.1 above shall retain their voting status while on modified service or phased retirement, but not upon full retirement.

[4] 3. Each voting member, of whatever rank, shall be entitled to one vote.

[5] 4. Nonvoting members of the General Faculty shall consist of the following:
   a. All visiting professors, [and] visiting associate professors, visiting assistant professors, and visiting Harrington fellows.
   b. All instructors and [lecturers] non-tenure-track faculty who have served for [less] fewer than four continuous long semesters.
   c. All individuals holding [the] an emeritus title, [“professor emeritus” or “associate-professor emeritus.”]

[6] 5. Non-voting members have the privilege of attending meetings with the right to speak but without the right to vote.
Section V. COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, AND DEPARTMENTS
A. Colleges and Departmentalized Schools.
   1. The voting members of the college or school faculty are the same as for the General Faculty (see Sec. I.B.1).
   2. [Special] Dual titles such as professor of [home-economics] human ecology and education indicate voting membership in both colleges or departments provided the faculty member holds a 50% appointment in each unit.
   3. Standing committees of the colleges and schools shall be appointed by the respective deans, either annually or biennially.
   4. Colleges and departmentalized schools may create more liberal voting criteria provided the rules meet these minimal standards. These voting rules shall be reported to the provost and Office of General Faculty and reaffirmed or revised every three years. These rules shall operate for the entire academic year and shall be determined prior to the start of the fall academic year.

B. Departments and Non-Departmentalized Schools/Collages.
   1. A faculty member shall have voting status in a department or non-departmentalized school/college on departmental/non-departmentalized school/college matters if:
      a. He or she holds a full-time appointment in that department and holds the rank of professor, [visiting professor], associate professor, [visiting associate professor] assistant professor, instructor, or [lecturer] any non-tenure-track title. The assignment of a faculty member to an administrative post, released time for research, career development, an endowed chair or such other activities as may be approved by the president shall not jeopardize the voting status of the individual under this provision. Or
      b. He or she holds joint appointments in two or more departments, [1] in any of the ranks listed in subsection a, above; he or she holds joint appointments in two or more departments in any of the ranks listed in subsection a, above, the sum of which corresponds to full-time appointment in the University, and [2] holds any of the ranks listed in subsection a, above, and] the appointment in the represented department constitutes at least 50% of that time.
         [(1)] [the terms of the original appointment accorded the faculty member voting status in the department or]
         [(2)] [the joint appointment is subsequent to his initial appointment and comprises at least 50% time appointment in the department as detailed in the budget.]
   2. Non-departmentalized schools/collages may create more liberal voting criteria provided the rules meet these minimal standards. These voting rules shall be reported to the provost and Office of General Faculty and reaffirmed or revised every three years. These rules shall operate for the entire academic year and shall be determined prior to the start of the fall academic year.

C. Academic Centers.
   A faculty member shall have voting status in an academic center on center matters according to how the center determines its voting rights. These voting rules shall be reported to the provost and Office of General Faculty and reaffirmed or revised every three years. These rules shall operate for the entire academic year and shall be determined prior to the start of the fall academic year.

Rationale for change:
To clarify voting rights and to maintain equity in the voting rights for all non-tenure track faculty who meet the criteria described in the original HOP for instructors and lecturers.

Posted on the Faculty Council web site (http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on January 10, 2011.

1 Changes to Section V, part B were added to indicate that the legislation specifically speaks to non-departmentalized colleges. The changes occurred during the Faculty Council meeting on January 24, 2010.