

## **Background:**

At the first meeting of the Bloomington Faculty Council on September 7<sup>th</sup>, the Council heard the recommendations of the Committee for Re-envisioning Faculty Governance at Indiana University Bloomington for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Council. According to Section 8.3 of the Constitution of the Bloomington Faculty Council:

If a proposed amendment has been approved by the Bloomington Faculty Council and considered by a meeting of the faculty or if fifteen class days have elapsed after Council approval without a call for a faculty meeting or if a proposed amendment has been approved by a duly convened faculty meeting, the President Pro Tempore shall circulate a ballot to the faculty. *The paper or electronic ballot shall be accompanied by a summary of arguments presented during any general faculty meeting at which the amendment was considered.*

In anticipation of Council approval, the Constitution and Rules Committee was charged with addressing the five main concerns of the Council voiced at that meeting and is furnishing recommendations below to address them. With the approval of the Council these recommendations will be circulated along with the ballot containing the proposed amendments.

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## Issues Raised at the September 7th Meeting of the BFC:

### **1) Nomination of the President-Elect.**

- a. It is proposed that the president-elect will be voted on by the entire faculty and not just the BFC membership. How will that person be nominated?
  - i. With the other potential members of the Council?
  - ii. From already elected members of the Council?
  - iii. What will be the time-line and process for the implementation of the new presidential system?

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The President-Elect will be nominated from among the current serving, elected members of the BFC.
- Candidates for President-Elect must receive 3 nominations from fellow standing, elected BFC members and affirm their willingness to run through self-nomination to become candidates for the President-Elect position
- BFC members can nominate as many members for president-elect as they'd like (the nominations would go to the nom com, which will also be asked to work to diversify the slate of nominated candidates)
- At least 2, but no more than 6, candidates will be forwarded to the full faculty for an electronic vote.

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

If these amendments to the BFC Bylaws are passed in the Fall term of the academic year 2010 – 2011, then the election of the next President of the BFC could take place as usual with the elected members of the Executive Committee in the Spring of 2011. The term of this President would be a three year term from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2014. They would serve immediately as President for two years and then one year as Past President/Chair of the Nominations Committee.

In Spring of 2012, there would be an election for a President-Elect. This individual would be the first to take on a three year term holding all three positions, President-Elect, President and Past President.

In Spring of 2013 and every year thereafter there would be the election for a President –Elect. The first academic year with the proposed presidential system fully in place would be Fall 2013 – Spring 2014.

## **2) Term Limits for the Executive Committee.**

- a. Every president under the proposed system will serve for three years.
  - i. Will there be any restrictions on serving as president and if so, what?
  - ii. What will be the relationship between serving as president and serving on Council?
  - iii. What will be the relationship between serving as president and serving on the core Council committees, more specifically as the chair of one of these committee and hence a member of the Executive Committee?

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- No one shall be eligible to serve consecutive terms as President as already specified in the Bylaws, Section 10.L.
- If someone is elected President, their seat becomes vacant and should be filled by the unit representative who received the next highest votes (see Bylaws, Section 7. C.).
- The President and President-Elect will hold no other chair positions. The Past-President may chair the Nominations Committee.
- No individual, elected or appointed, can hold a seat on the Executive Committee for more than 3 consecutive years. Any individual elected or appointed to the Executive Committee for 3 years must step off the Executive Committee for a minimum of 1 year.

**3) Consultative vs. Legislative Authority of the Bloomington Faculty Council.**

- a. Does the CRC uphold this division made to the division of authority in the Bloomington Faculty Constitution as proposed by the Reform Task Force?
- The CRC upholds this division as proposed by the Reform Task Force. We are in support of maintaining the distinction between Consultative and Legislative authority.
  - To provide a more robust legislative role for the Executive Committee of the Bloomington Faculty Council, the CRC recommends that any legislative action by the Executive Committee will require the approval of the majority (5 of 9 Executive Committee members) of the committee and that this majority must include the President and President-Elect.

**4) Meetings of the Executive Committee.**

- a. Is the proposed weekly meeting schedule of the Executive Committee too onerous for the chairs of the core Council committees?

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The CRC does not believe that the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Provost, and the Executive Committee with the Bloomington Faculty Council, both of which are usually held on Tuesday afternoons, present an undue burden on Executive Committee chairs.

- The CRC recommends the insertion of a new point in section 16. A. of the proposed Bylaws:
  - v. The Executive Committee shall meet in weeks preceding Bloomington Faculty Council meetings at a customarily fixed time and location with the Provost of the Bloomington campus. Additional meetings of the Executive Committee can be scheduled as needed.

**5) Composition of the Executive Committee**

- a. The proposed composition of the Executive Committee would have the chairs of the Budgetary Affairs Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee, Educational Policy Committee and a reconstituted Long Range Planning Committee as members. Is this list sufficient?
  - i. Should others be added?
  - ii. Should committee representation have some flexibility built into it?
- The CRC upholds the membership of the Executive Committee with the understanding that the Executive Committee is free to invite the chairs of the other standing Bloomington Faculty Council committees to participate in meetings of the Executive Committee as circumstances warrant. The CRC does not, however, support having at-large members of the Executive Committee.

The final composition of the Executive Committee would then consist of nine members:

- 1) President-Elect
- 2) President
- 3) Past President
- 4) Secretary
- 5) Parliamentarian
- 6) Chair of the Budgetary Affairs Committee
- 7) Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee
- 8) Chair of the Educational Policies Committee
- 9) Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee