Academic Senate Draft Constitution (v.3)

Some notes for AS Council, 20 Jan 15

The goal of the constitution is to lay out the general principles and framework of the Academic Senate. If this draft is passed it can only be changed by a majority vote of the general membership of the Senate, as is our current constitution, so the intent is that this will rarely need to be altered.

Article I: Name

No change

Article II: Purpose

Strengthened with new reference to Title V and direct quote on 10 + 1.

Article III: Procedures and Rules

Again, strengthened with new reference to and direct quotes from Title V.

Article IV: The Academic Senate Membership

This repeats the prior constitution in stating that the general membership has the final authority within the organization, including the rights of initiative, recall and petition. What we as the Senate Council now need to decide is how this should work in practice, particularly how many members need to participate in order to change anything. Here the Working Group has copied our current constitution – one third need to participate, but we agreed that Council should decide on the final draft. Currently we have just under 500 full and part-time faculty (so 167 or more faculty are needed to vote to be able to change anything, of which a simple majority is needed to pass the change). Thoughts please!

Article V: AS General Meetings

Again, what percentage of members is needed to call a General Meeting? Currently it states 10% (about 50 faculty).

Article VI: The AS Council

Includes more on the department representatives.

Article VII: The AS Executive Officers

Includes term limits, new election calendar, and shadowing before taking on new positions.

Article VIII: AS Standing and Other Committees

All new as current constitution out of date.

Article IX: Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

Adds automatic discussion of both constitution and by-laws by Council at regular intervals.

Keeps current procedure for changing constitution, but changes it for the by-laws – instead of requiring a vote of the general membership this could now be done by a two thirds vote of Council.

Article X: Ratification

No change – indeed do we still need to include this article?