UIS Campus Senate Faculty Electorate

The SEC received a question about whether the Faculty Electorate for the Campus Senate includes non-tenure track faculty. Article 1, Section 2 of the UIS Campus Senate Constitution defines the faculty electorate as follows (http://www.uis.edu/campussenate/docs/documents/2009-04-17_Constitution.pdf):

“The Faculty Electorate shall be composed of all persons holding full-time faculty appointments who devote fifty percent or more of their time to instruction, research, and/or public service. This shall include faculty with titles such as Center Director and Research Associate but shall not include administrative titles of Dean or above.”

According to University of Illinois Statutes (http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/statutes.cfm), Research Associate is a non-tenure track academic rank (Article IX, Section 3c). According to the Statutes, academic ranks other than professor, associate professor, and assistant professor are: “(1) lecturer; (2) instructor; (3) teaching associate, research associate, and clinical associate; (4) teaching assistant, research assistant, and clinical assistant.” Further, Article X, Section 1.7 of the Statutes states that an “appointment with the rank of teaching associate, research associate, clinical associate, or which includes in the title the term “research” modifying the term “professor”, “associate professor” or “assistant professor,” as authorized in the first paragraph of Article IX, Section 3c, shall be for not longer than three years.”

Based on the inclusive wording “faculty with titles such as…Research Associate,” and the inclusion of Research Association in an ordered list of academic ranks in the Statutes, we interpret the Faculty Electorate as including all full-time academic staff members, including instructors, clinical instructors, and visiting faculty, but not teaching or research assistants. Further, members of the faculty electorate must not hold administrative titles above “Center Director.”

The Senate Executive Committee examined relevant policy documents. We concluded the wording of the Senate Constitution seems consistent with the Statutes. If any change is desired (such as a more explicit listing of faculty titles) the Senate can choose to consider amending the Constitution. An amendment to the Constitution requires two readings and must be approved by the Board of Trustees. Any amendment to the Constitution undertaken in the spring semester would therefore take effect the following year.

University of Illinois Statutes (relevant sections underlined)

ARTICLE II. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Campus Senates

a. A senate shall be constituted at each campus of the University. The basic structure of a senate, including its composition, shall be provided for in its constitution. The constitution and any amendments thereto shall take effect upon adoption by the senate concerned and approval thereof by the Board of Trustees.
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  g. Each senate shall adopt bylaws which shall govern except as otherwise provided in these Statutes its procedures and practices, including such matters as committee structure and duties, calling of meetings and establishment of agenda, and selection of officers. The bylaws of each senate shall provide for committees or other bodies to exercise those statutory duties specified in other sections of these Statutes, e.g., academic freedom and tenure, student discipline, and student affairs. The bylaws and any changes thereto shall be reported to the Board of Trustees through the vice president/chancellor and the president.

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Section 3. Faculty Role in Governance

  a. (1) The faculty of the University and any of its units except for the Graduate College consists of those members of the academic staff with the rank or title in that unit of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor who are tenured or receiving probationary credit toward tenure, and those administrators in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs (persons who hold the title director or dean in an academic unit, provost or equivalent officer, vice president/chancellor and president). Administrative staff members not in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs are members of the faculty only if they also hold faculty appointments. The bylaws of any academic unit may further mandate a minimum percent faculty appointment in that unit for specified faculty privileges, such as voting privileges.

  (2) The bylaws of a unit may grant specified faculty privileges to selected faculty of other units. The bylaws may also grant specified faculty privileges to members of the academic staff of the unit or of other units who are not included in subsection 1 above (i.e., neither tenured nor receiving probationary credit toward tenure), and who have the rank or title of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, or lecturer. The bylaws may also grant specified faculty privileges to members of the academic staff of the unit or of other units who have the rank or title of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, or lecturer modified by the terms “research,” “adjunct,” “clinical,” “visiting” and/or “emeritus” (e.g., “research professor,” “adjunct assistant professor,” “clinical associate professor,” “visiting professor”). Only academic staff with titles listed above may be extended faculty privileges. Voting on these provisions of the bylaws is limited to those named in subsection (1) above.

  b. As the responsible body in the teaching, research, and scholarly activities of the University, the faculty has inherent interests and rights in academic policy and governance. Each college or other academic unit shall be governed in its internal administration by its faculty, as defined in Section 3a (1) above. Governance of each academic unit shall be based on unit bylaws established and amended by the faculty of that unit. The bylaws shall provide for the administrative organization and procedure of the unit, including the composition and tenure of executive or advisory committees. Except that they may not conflict with these Statutes, or other specific actions of the Board of Trustees, or with the bylaws of a unit which encompasses it, the details of the bylaws are left to the faculty of the unit.