

The Voting and non-Voting Membership of the University Senate

Background Information

The University Senate is a mixed constituency body. The voting membership comprises about 75% elected faculty, 15% elected students, and 10% ex-officio administrators. Voting members include 94 elected faculty senators representing 18 colleges, one emeritus professor, two faculty trustees, 18 elected student members (including student trustee/SGA president) and 11 or 12 ex officio administrators, depending on the year. For the 2012-13 academic year, the ex officio voting members are the Provost, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, and the Deans of Libraries, Communication and Information, Dentistry, Design, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, and Social Work. As per *Governing Regulations IV*, only elected faculty senators may vote on the degree list and honorary degrees.

Timeline of Events Related to Adhoc Committee on Senate Non-Faculty Membership: Formation, Charge, Recommendations

1. At the Sept 10, 2012 University Senate meeting the Senate Council Chair/Presiding Officer made the following announcement that was recorded in the minutes and is posted on the University Senate website:

“Regarding ex officio status, the SC will compose an ad hoc committee to review the voting and non-voting status of ex officio members of the Senate.”

http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/university_senate/minutes_transcripts/index.htm

2. On October 1, 2012 the Senate Council created and charged an ad hoc committee to review the voting status of non-faculty senators. In this context ‘non-faculty’ was meant to include the student senators and those ex officio senators who are faculty with administrative appointments. This committee was initially called the Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Ex Officio Members and Their Voting Rights. The committee charge, rationale, and composition were posted on the Oct 1, 2012 agenda.

http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/files/Meetings/1_2012-2013/20121001/Rationale_Charge_Comp.pdf

Further supporting documentation accompanying the proposed charges is posted here:

http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/files/Meetings/1_2012-2013/20121001/Ad_Hoc_Cmte_Ex_Officio_Voting_Rights.pdf

The ensuing discussion is recorded in the minutes and posted at the Senate Council website. During this meeting the name of the committee was changed to the Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Non- Faculty Membership.

3. On March 6, 2013, the Student Senate passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The University Senate is currently composed of 94 elected faculty, 1 emeritus faculty, 18 students, and 12 administrators; and

WHEREAS, the University Senate is representative of the view of the faculty even though it includes students and administrators; and

WHEREAS, a Staff Senate and Student Senate currently exist for these constituencies to express their opinions while no such body exists solely for the faculty; and

WHEREAS, only faculty are allowed to vote on several key matters dealt with by the University Senate including the granting of degrees; and

WHEREAS, the students believe that Shared Governance is an important core value of the University, which should include a governing body composed solely of faculty members;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Kentucky Student Government endorses the creation of a Faculty Senate to include only faculty voting members with other possible advisory members, including students and administrators.

<http://uksga.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/015-3-6-13-Minutes.pdf>

This represents an official opinion of the Student Government Association, having been passed by the Student Senate and not vetoed by President Bilas.

4. In April of 2013, the Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Non-faculty Membership met and issued recommendations and proposed changes to the Governing Regulations to accommodate the recommended changes. This proposal will be presented at the April 22, 2013 Senate Council meeting. A link to the recommendation of the committee and associated documentation is posted on the April 22, 2013 SC agenda website.

http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/senate_council/agendas/indexSC12-13.htm