University Faculty Organization Committee
Alternative Proposal to Modify the University Faculty Council

The UFOC is presenting this alternative to modify the makeup of the UFC in response to the email sent by UFC Chair Jodie Hayob on Wednesday, September 17 inviting alternative proposals. The UFOC is pleased to do so as this is one of the reasons for our committee’s existence under the Faculty Handbook (2.6.5.4 and 2.6.5.6).

Our proposed modifications to the original UFC proposal were developed and unanimously approved by the UFOC. After the UFC denied our formal request to review and make recommendations on the original proposal, UFOC chair Brooke Di Lauro offered our suggestions to the UFC as a friendly amendment to the UFC proposal. The UFC chair rejected the suggestions and stated that if the UFOC wished to submit an alternative proposal in writing, we should do so. The majority of the UFOC decided to do so and this is our alternative.

Based on the agreement of the UFOC at the September 8 meeting, the following changes to the Faculty Handbook are proposed by the UFOC. The items in black are the current language of the Faculty Handbook that would remain unchanged. The items in red strikethrough would be deleted from the handbook. The items in blue would be added to the handbook.

2.3 THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL

2.3.4 Membership and Organization of the UFC The UFC will be comprised of the following fifteen (15) voting members: two (2) three (3) faculty elected from the College of Education; two (2) three (3) faculty elected from the College of Business; two (2) and nine (9) faculty elected from the College of Arts and Sciences; as follows: three (3) faculty elected from the health and STEM disciplines (biology, chemistry, computer science, Earth/environmental sciences, mathematics, physics, or health/physical education/recreation), three (3) faculty elected from the social sciences (economics, geography, history/American studies, historic preservation, political science/international affairs, psychology, or sociology/anthropology), and three (3) faculty elected from the arts and humanities (art/arthistory, classics/philosophy/religion, English/linguistics/communication, modern languages/literatures, music, or theater/dance). and four (4) faculty elected from the instructional faculty-at-large. In addition, the President, the Provost, the deans of all three colleges, and one student representative selected by the Student Government Association serve as nonvoting ex officio members.

APPENDIX L

RULES OF ORDER FOR MEETINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL

L.3 Quorum A quorum for UFC meetings of record is a majority of voting members that includes at least one member from each member election category (CAS, COE, COB, At-large).

L.11 Proxy Voting Proxy votes are allowable. The written designation of proxy must be given to the secretary of the University Faculty Council by the beginning of the meeting at which the vote is to be taken. The secretary of the UFC will report the proxies held at the opening of the meeting.
Rationale

- This proposal would increase the current voting members of the UFC from 10 members to 15 members, a 50% growth. This is a large increase in membership and while the greater representation will ensure more voices are heard in the UFC, larger committees are also less efficient than smaller committees. 15 members is smaller than the 18 members suggested in the original proposal and the UFOC thinks it wise to first judge the impact of adding five members in case this number is too high before increasing it even more.

- This proposal would ensure an odd number of members on the UFC, thus making tie votes less likely.

- This proposal eliminates at-large members of the UFC. The UFOC strongly recommends against the use of at-large members as it violates the standard principal of a representative body – that is, even the at-large members do not know exactly which group they are representing. This could be especially problematic in situations where faculty disagree with one another and the other UFC members survey their constituents on how to vote. Finally, one of the reasons for changing the UFC was to better unify the faculty and the use of at-large faculty seems to be divisive, not unifying.

- The changes in this proposal were developed and approved by representatives of all three colleges. This trilateral cooperation is an important factor in successful and collegial faculty governance.