

University Constitution Committee Minutes
November 13, 2015
9:45 AM – Tigert 239A

Attendees:

David Groisser (Chair), Maureen Long, Heather Ray, Richard Scholtz, Sue Alvers and Ana Spiguel

David called the meeting to order at 9:49 a.m. The October minutes were approved.

Revision of April 2015 minutes

Consideration of the revised April minutes had previously been tabled pending Angel Kwolek-Folland's review of a part pertaining to her. Angel was not in attendance, but prior to the meeting had told David by email that the relevant information in the revised minutes was correct. Committee approved the revised version of the April minutes.

Proposed amendment(s) to UF Regulations ("lights" review)

Ana Spiguel explained that proposed regulation-amendments used to be presented to the BOT several times a year. However, now the General Counsel's office has them ready annually, usually in March. She mentioned that there are a couple of exceptions like fee increases (Regulation 3.0372, whose proposed amendment is currently in its 14-day comment-period) and tuition increases (usually proposed in June). Both of these regulations are amended annually to agree with the revised state language. Ana suggested that as Chair of the Constitution Committee, David send a note to the senators and faculty providing them with notice of the proposed amendment and opportunity to comment. David will write a message to faculty and Sue will send it out this afternoon.

Omission in Constitution subsection IV(3)(A)

The Committee discussed the inconsistency in Subsection IV(3)(A). This subsection's first sentence omits "Parliamentarian" from the list of officers, but "Parliamentarian" is included afterwards in Subsection IV(3)(A)(4). Maureen Long pointed out that, in parliamentary bodies, a parliamentarian is usually considered an advisor, not an officer. After discussion, Heather Ray made a motion, with Richard Scholtz seconding, to recommend expanding Subsection IV(3)(A) by doing the following:

- Change the title from "Officers" to "*Officers and Advisors*".
- Change the sentence for Subsection IV (3)(A) (currently "The Faculty Senate officers shall be the Chair, the Chair Elect, the Past Chair and the Secretary") to two new sentences: *The Faculty Senate officers shall be the Chair, the Chair Elect, and the Past Chair. The Advisors shall be the Parliamentarian and Secretary.*
- Change Subsection IV(3)(B) title from "Terms of Office and Selection of Officers" to "*Terms of Office and Selection of Officers and Advisors.*"
 - The Committee approved unanimously.

Title of Constitution Section V(8)

After a bit of a discussion, the Committee recommends unanimously that the title of Section V(8) be changed from "Terms of Service and Election of Committee Chairs" to "*Membership Terms of Service; Election of Chairs*". Heather Ray made the motion, with Maureen Long seconding.

It was pointed out that in Section V(8)(A) the last sentence, "Members who miss three consecutive unexcused meetings shall be replaced," should not contain the phrase "unexcused meetings"; what the sentence is trying to address are unexcused *absences*. There was also concern about the notification process if a senator cannot attend a meeting. Richard Scholtz made a motion, with Maureen Long seconding, to recommend that the last sentence be changed to: "*Members who miss three consecutive meetings without proper and timely notification shall be replaced.*" The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion turned to the lack of definition, in the Constitution and Bylaws, of what constitutes a quorum for meetings of committees and councils. Heather Ray made a motion, with Maureen Long seconding, to *ask the Steering Committee to refer the quorum issue to the Committee on Committees with a recommendation that clarification be included in both documents.* The motion was approved unanimously.

Spring Meetings

David polled the members attending on what days and times would be best to meet during spring term. At the moment, it looks like Friday at the same time works best for those present. A Doodle poll will be sent later to confirm.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.