

# Proposals to Reform UF Constitution & Bylaws: Special Meeting Petition Process

University Constitution & Regulations Committee

Charlene Luke, Chair UCRC

Merritt McAlister, Chair UCRC Subcommittee

# UF Constitution: Article IV Section 4

## Current Text

- “MEETINGS-The Faculty Senate shall normally meet at least once during each calendar month of the academic year or as specified by the Bylaws of the Senate. Special meetings of the Senate may be called upon due notice at such times as the Chair or President may designate or upon petition of twenty-five members of the Senate.”

# UF Constitution: Article IV Section 4

## Proposed Amendment

“MEETINGS—The Faculty Senate shall normally meet at least once during each calendar month of the academic year or as specified by the Bylaws of the Senate. Special meetings of the Senate may be called upon due notice at such times as the Chair or President may designate. A special meeting also may be called upon petition of 25 members of the Senate, provided, however, that at least two (2) of the petitioning members are from different Academic Units as defined in Section 2 herein. Any item to be discussed or acted upon at a special meeting must be provided in advance to all Senators and the support of 25 members shall operate to place that item on the agenda.”

# Senate Bylaws: Proposed Amendments

- New language added to Bylaw 4(G)(1)(b)
  - Current text: “Special meetings of the Senate may be called upon due notice at such times as the Chair or President may designate, or upon petition to the Chair of at least 25 voting members of the Senate.”
- New Bylaw 4(I)

# Proposed Change to Bylaw 4(G)(1)(b):

“Special meetings of the Senate may be called upon due notice at such times as the Chair or President may designate, or upon petition to the Chair of at least 25 voting members of the Senate, **provided, however, that at least two (2) of the petitioning members are from different Academic Units as defined in Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution. Any item to be discussed or acted upon at a special meeting must be provided in advance to all Senators and the support of 25 members shall operate to place that item on the agenda. To the greatest extent possible, all documentation about the issue to be discussed at a special meeting should be provided to Senators at the time they vote on calling a special meeting, although this does not preclude augmenting the agenda item with additional information as it becomes available.**”

# Proposed New Bylaw 4(I)

(I) Procedures for a Special Meeting Upon Petition of Senators.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this bylaw, in the event that a special meeting has been called upon petition of at least 25 of the voting members of the Senate pursuant to Bylaw 4(G)(1)(b), those petitioning senators shall submit in writing any Information Items or Action Items to the Secretary of the Senate. Those items must be placed on the Agenda of the Senate and may only be declined, deferred, or referred to a Senate Council or Committee upon a majority vote of the full Senate. A meeting on those Items shall be called within 10 business days of receipt of the Items by the Secretary of the Senate. The petitioning senators shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to present each item placed on the Agenda, and any other interested parties shall be permitted a similar amount of time to respond to the petitioning senators. The Faculty Senate Chair may require the petitioning senators to designate a representative to speak on their behalf at the special meeting, and the Faculty Senate Chair may also require any other group to identify a representative if many members also wish to speak on the same topic.