

MAJOR CHANGES TO THE FACULTY BYLAWS

October 16, 2007

General Description. The Faculty Bylaws of the University of Missouri-Rolla constitute one chapter in the Collected Rules and Regulations, approved by the Curators of the University of Missouri System. The Collected Rules and Regulations govern the University. An ad-hoc committee was charged to draft changes to the Faculty Bylaws to reflect the new structure of the campus that will be without schools, colleges or academic deans. To revise the Faculty Bylaws, a group of 20 members of the General Faculty must submit the [recommended / proposed] changes to the Rules, Procedure and Agenda Committee. These changes will then be considered by the General Faculty at a General Faculty meeting (October 22, 2007), and voting will be conducted by a mail ballot after the meeting. Ultimately the revised Faculty Bylaws must be approved by the Board of Curators.

The responsibilities granted in the Bylaws to the Deans needed to be reassigned. The RP&A Committee directed the ad-hoc committee to move those responsibilities to the Departmental level, when possible, but some had to be moved to the Provost level.

The ad-hoc committee is proposing to change the Academic Council to a Faculty Senate. Except for UMC (which has a Faculty Council), the other Missouri Public Universities have Faculty or University Senates as their faculty governance bodies. The voting members of the Faculty Senate will be elected by the academic departments, as they are currently selected for the Academic Council. All faculty, including tenured/tenure-track and non-tenure track faculty, are eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate. Ex officio, non-voting members of the Faculty Senate will consist of the Provost, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Registrar, Staff Council President, Student Council President and Vice President, and Council of Graduate Students President.

Other changes, identified as being necessary to bring the Bylaws into conformance with current campus policy and procedures, required the significant changes to sections of the Faculty Bylaws noted below.

1. Section C. General Faculty. Membership in the General Faculty includes all full-time General Faculty members, including tenure track and non-tenure track full-time faculty and staff members holding the rank of instructor or above, the President, the Chancellor, the Provost, the Registrar, the Director of the Library, and any other person who may be elected by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Faculty. It is intended to be an inclusive group.

Voting in the General Faculty is restricted to tenured and tenure-track faculty. All faculty and administrators who hold a tenured or tenure-track positions will be eligible to vote.

2. Section D.1.c. Currently, when a department wishes to offer a new course or make a change in its curriculum, the proposal goes to the Dean's office where it is reviewed by the School/College Curriculum Committee for review, and is then sent to the Curricula Committee. In the new structure, departments will submit proposals for new courses or changes in the curriculum to a Discipline Specific Curricula Committee (DSCC). The DSCC will review the proposal and make its recommendation to the Curricula Committee.

3. Section D.2. A section titled “Special Programs” was added to allow the University to offer multi-disciplinary or other special programs. Examples of such programs are: Freshman Engineering, Residence College courses, and the Global Studies minor being proposed. In the current Faculty Bylaws, courses, degrees, and certificates are offered by academic departments; there is no structure for offering campus-wide multidisciplinary courses (like the Residential College courses), multidisciplinary minors (like Global Studies) or other special programs (like Freshman Engineering). The purpose of this section is to provide a structure for the campus to offer courses and programs such as these.

Special programs are authorized to offer courses, minors, and certificates. Special programs may not offer Bachelors, Masters or PhD degrees; all Bachelors, Masters and PhD degrees must be offered by academic departments. The Provost is responsible for identifying and proposing that Special Programs be formed. Special Programs must be approved by the Faculty Senate. Each Special Program is governed by a Board of Program Representatives, who are ranked faculty elected by the departments involved with the Special Program. The Board of Program Representatives will elect a Director for the Special Program (normally from their ranks). Once the Special Program is in place, the Director will be allowed to submit proposals for courses and/or curriculum to the Curriculum Committee. The Curriculum Committee will then follow the same procedures as if an academic department had submitted a proposal for courses or curriculum.

4. Section D.2. The section on Schools and Colleges was deleted. [With the renumbering that resulted from the deletion, the Special Programs section above ended up with the same section number in the document.]

5. Section D.4.b.(4) and (5). Voting membership in the Faculty Senate is restricted to the faculty members that are elected by the academic departments as representatives of the Faculty Senate. All faculty, including tenured/tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty are eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate. Faculty Senate officers vote only if they are the elected department representatives. The President votes only if there is a tie vote, and will be allowed cast the deciding vote even if he/she is not an elected department representative. Ex officio non-voting members of the Faculty Senate consist of the Provost, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Registrar, Staff Council President, Student Council President and Vice President, and Council of Graduate Students President.

6. Membership of Standing Committees. Membership of several of the standing committees currently requires faculty from each of the Schools/Colleges. In some cases under the new structure, allowing one representative from each department would make the committees too large. It is proposed to allow each department to nominate members to serve on the standing committees. The Rules, Procedure and Agenda Committee will develop a slate of nominees, and the appropriate number of representatives for each Standing Committee will be selected by the Faculty Senate.