Re: Systemwide Review of Proposal to Amend Senate Bylaw 55

Dear Bill,

The UCLA Academic Senate’s Executive Board appreciates the opportunity to opine on the Proposal to Amend Senate Bylaw 55 that would allow but not require the extension of departmental voting rights on academic appointment and promotion actions to salaried non-Senate faculty in the Adjunct Professor and Health Sciences Clinical Professor series. At its meeting on January 9, 2014, the Board considered the input received from the Council on Academic Personnel, the Faculty Welfare Committee, the Committee on Rules & Jurisdiction, and several Faculty Executive Committees.

As might be anticipated given the very different nature of the adjunct series in departments across campus, the comments from these committees varied substantially. These comments are available on our Senate web site at http://www.senate.ucla.edu/documents/1-CombinedResponses-SenateBylaw55.pdf.

Acknowledging that departmental practice varies widely and that the implications of extending these rights would have profoundly different effects on different departments, the Executive Board endorsed the proposed amendments to Bylaw 55 to allow Health Science departments to extend voting rights to non-Academic Senate faculty who are subject to regular academic review. Despite its support, however, the Board had some concerns about implementation. These included:

1. The use of the adjunct series varies across departments even in the Health Sciences departments. There was agreement that the Clinical Professor series should be included because that series generally involves teaching. Adjuncts do not always teach and are sometimes relatively short-term appointments. Because of these differences, it is important that departments vote on the Clinical Professor and Adjust Professor series separately.
2. Because of potentially small numbers of voting members in some categories, the recording of votes should be done in such a way that confidentiality is ensured.

Should the bylaw change be approved, we will recommend these practices to the relevant departments at UCLA.

Very Sincerely,

Jan Reiff
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

cc: Martha Kendall Winnacker, Executive Director, Academic Senate
    Linda Mohr, Interim CAO, UCLA Academic Senate