

Report and Recommendation on Resolution 2016-9
Committee on University Government
[Draft of April 1, 2016]

For nearly five decades, faculty legislation at UNC-CH has been considered under two separate sets of parliamentary rules. The General Faculty has operated under rules of procedure codified in Appendix A of the Faculty Code, which were adopted in 1970. The Faculty Council has operated under a different set of rules, codified in Appendix B, which were originally adopted in 1952 and most recently amended in 1999.

Having two sets of rules is needlessly complicated and the rules themselves have sometimes led to confusion. Hence, the Committee on University Government set out to draft a unified set of rules which would be both simpler and clearer. Our goal was to make it easier for members of the General Faculty and Faculty Council to introduce resolutions in a way that would allow for adequate notice and an orderly process leading to a vote.

The new rules presented in Resolution 2016-9 are based on the old ones, and are intended to codify our current practices. They differ substantively from the current rules in only two important ways:

- * Faculty legislation (as distinct from procedural motions) may no longer be introduced from the floor unless the rules are suspended by a two-thirds vote. Rather, all resolutions must be submitted in writing to the secretary of the faculty at least 72 hours before the meeting, so that they can be posted with the agenda in advance. This rule insures that due notice will be provided to the faculty prior to a vote.

- * Amending these rules of procedure will no longer require a two-thirds vote. This brings the new rules in line with common parliamentary practice, which requires only a majority vote to amend the rules, but a two-thirds vote to suspend them temporarily in the course of a meeting.

Two omissions in the proposed rules also deserve explanation:

- * The Agenda Committee is chartered in section 4-20 of the Faculty Code, and therefore needs no mention in the rules of procedure. (Note that the Agenda Committee does not screen resolutions, but simply insures that they appear in proper form and schedules them.)

- * The power of the faculty to create ad hoc committees is also presumed in the Faculty Code (section 4-1), and so such a provision is unnecessary in the rules of procedure.

The Committee on University Government strongly recommends that this resolution be adopted.

(Under the current rules, amending the Rules of Procedure of the General Faculty requires only a majority vote of the General Faculty in meeting. Amending the current Rules of Procedure of the Faculty Council requires “a two-thirds vote of the members present at a meeting of the Council.” Hence, the more stringent, two-thirds vote will be required to adopt the new rules. Because these rules are not formally part of the Faculty Code, no second reading will be necessary.)