Resolution 2022-6. Amending The Faculty Code of University Government as it pertains to the Chair of the Faculty and Secretary of the Faculty.

The General Faculty enacts:

Section 1. Amendments pertaining to the office of Chair of the Faculty.

Section 1. Sections 3-1, 2-10, and 4-5 of The Faculty Code of University Government are amended as follows:

§ 3-1. The chair of the faculty. (a) The chair of the faculty serves as chair pro tempore of the Faculty Council and of the General Faculty, makes an annual report to the Faculty Council on the state of the faculty, represents the chancellor in all academic matters whenever the chancellor may request the chair him or her to do so, and has such other responsibilities as may be determined by the chancellor or the Faculty Council.

(b) The chair of the faculty serves for a term of three years and is not eligible for immediate reelection. Nominations and elections for chair of the faculty are held every third second year, and the person elected takes office on July 1 following the election.

(c) Nominations are made by the Advisory Committee, which announces the upcoming election to all members of the voting faculty and invites recommendations of persons to be nominated. The committee selects and submits the names of at least two qualified persons. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes in the election is elected, unless the person he or she has failed to receive a majority of the votes cast. In that event, a run-off election is held between those who received the highest and the next highest number of votes in the previous election, and the person receiving the highest number of votes in the run-off election is elected.

(c) The person elected serves for one year as chair-elect, beginning on July 1 following the election, then assumes the office of chair of the faculty on July 1 of the next year. The person then serves as chair of the faculty for a term of two years and is not eligible for immediate reelection. The chair-elect serves on the Faculty Executive Committee and may substitute for the chair during the chair’s temporary absence, if requested by the chair. No person may serve on the Faculty Executive Committee simultaneously as both chair-elect and an elected member. If a person is an elected member of the Faculty Executive Committee when the person becomes chair-elect, the person’s elected position is deemed vacant and will be filled as provided in sections 2-10 and 4-3 of this Code.

(d) The immediate past-chair serves a one-year term on the Advisory Committee and may substitute for the chair during the chair’s temporary absence, if requested by the chair.

§ 2-10. Faculty Executive Committee. (a) The Faculty Executive Committee consists of the chair of the faculty, the secretary of the faculty, and twelve members of the voting faculty elected by the faculty for renewable three-year terms. The chair-elect of the faculty serves a one-year term as a non-voting ex officio member. The term of office begins on July 1. A An elected member who has served two successive full three-year terms is ineligible for election to the succeeding term.

§ 4-5. Advisory Committee. (a) The Advisory Committee consists of nine elected members, the chair of the faculty, the secretary of the faculty, and the chair of the Committee on Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure. Beginning July 1, 2025, the immediate past-chair of the faculty serves a one-year term as a non-voting ex officio member.
Section 1.2. To implement the transition in the election and term of the chair, the person elected chair of the faculty during the 2022-23 academic year will assume the office of chair of the faculty on July 1, 2023, and serve a term of three years (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026). An election for chair of the faculty will also occur during the 2024-25 academic year, and the person elected will assume the role of chair-elect on July 1, 2025, then assume the office of chair of the faculty on July 1, 2026 for a term of two years. Subsequent elections will be held every second year, as provided in subsection (b).

Section 2. Amendments pertaining to the office of Secretary of the Faculty.

Section 2.1. Section 3-2 of The Faculty Code of University Government is amended as follows:

§ 3-2. The secretary of the faculty. (a) The secretary of the faculty keeps minutes of all meetings of the General Faculty and of the Faculty Council and maintains a permanent record of the minutes and enters them in the permanent minute books of the faculty, conducts all elections of the General Faculty and the Faculty Council, and conducts correspondence pertaining to elections and actions of the two faculty bodies. He or she maintains files of all nominations and citations for honorary degrees and special awards and also maintains records of the charge, membership, and duration of all committees about which he or she is notified pursuant to § 4-1(b).

(b) The secretary of the faculty serves for a term of four years and is eligible for re-election, but may not serve more than two terms consecutively. The Advisory Committee nominates one member of the voting faculty for the position. The Faculty Council, after opportunity has been given for additional nominations from the floor, proceeds to elect a secretary of the faculty.

Section 2.2. The person elected secretary of the faculty during the 2021-22 academic year has a 5-year term, ending June 30, 2026, and is eligible for immediate reelection to one four-year term, as provided in subsection (b).

Submitted by the Committee on University Government.

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Justification

Amendments pertaining to the Chair of the Faculty: The faculty recognizes that the office of Chair of the Faculty is a weighty responsibility that requires significant time and attention. Reducing the term of service from three years to two years may make it more feasible for a wider range of faculty members to serve in this position. The faculty further recognizes that the Chair of the Faculty needs time to learn the new position and arrange time away from usual scholarship and teaching duties, and wishes to formalize a time period to allow for this by designating the person chair-elect and giving the chair-elect a position on the Faculty Executive Committee. Finally, the faculty also recognizes that an immediate past Chair of the Faculty frequently continues to advise faculty governance and wishes to formalize this role as well with recognition of the role of immediate past-chair and a position on the Advisory Committee. The amendments implement these goals and also provide that either the chair-elect or the past-chair
may substitute for the chair during a temporary absence, at the chair’s request. [The Committee on
University Government adopted a technical amendment to the proposed changes to sec. 3-1 following
the October 2022 Faculty Council meeting to clarify that this applies to the past-chair as well as the
chair-elect.] If the chair must step down permanently, the position will be deemed vacant and filled in
accordance with sec. 3-5 of the Faculty Code.

Amendments pertaining to the Secretary of the Faculty: The faculty recognizes that the Secretary of the
Faculty has administrative responsibility for the Office of Faculty Governance as well as the duties
specified in the Code. Accordingly, a longer term of office for this position is desirable. However, it is
also important that the office turn over periodically to make this opportunity for service available to
more faculty members and to provide fresh perspectives. The term of the office of Secretary of the
Faculty is therefore reduced from five years to four years, and no person may serve more than two
consecutive four-year terms.