

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 21-18

(Voting Units: Full Senate)

Proposal: Revisions to the Constitution & Bylaws

Submitted by Senate Ad hoc Committee on Revisions to Constitution and Bylaws

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Introduction

Librarians and archivists function as academics in the University environment, but are not recognized as such in the University Constitution. While not faculty, librarians and archivists are on academic appointments. Their work is of an academic nature including, instruction, research and presentations within their disciplines. Librarians and archivists also serve on university and senate groups which focus on the academic and research activities of the university. Due to their role in the university which is neither faculty nor professional staff, an additional individual constituent, “non-faculty academic” is proposed.

Proposal

The Constitution and Bylaws of the University Senate of Michigan Technological University shall be amended by:

[Item 1] Article II.A: Change from “The University Senate’s constituency is the University’s academic and research faculty and professional staff, including staff employed at independent research units. These groups meet and operate as a unit under a single Constitution and Bylaws, with a single set of University Senate officers and committees. Voting on certain issues will be confined to one of these groups, as defined in Article III below.”

To “The University Senate’s constituency is the University’s academic and research faculty, [academic rank librarians and archivists](#), and professional staff, including staff employed at independent research units. These groups meet and operate as a unit under a single Constitution and Bylaws, with a single set of University Senate officers and committees. Voting on certain issues will be confined to one of these groups, as defined in Article III below.”

[Item 2] Article II.B: Change from “University Senate constituents are University professional

staff and faculty, who are employed full time for a minimum of 9 months per year, unless otherwise excluded because of major administrative functions (see paragraph 4 below). Full time is defined as a minimum of 30 hours per week.”

To “University Senate constituents are University professional staff, ~~and~~ faculty, ~~and academic rank librarians and archivists~~, who are employed full time for a minimum of 9 months per year, unless otherwise excluded because of major administrative functions (see paragraph 4 below). Full time is defined as a minimum of 30 hours per week.

[Item 3] Article II.B.5: Add “~~Academic rank librarians and archivists, who hold appointments shall be constituents of the University Senate, unless otherwise excluded because of major administrative functions.~~”

Rationale: Because librarians and archivists are neither academic or research faculty nor professional staff as defined in the Senate Constitution, a classification of individual senate constituents, non-faculty academics, including librarians and archivists is proposed.

[Item 4] Article II.C.1.a Change from “a. Academic Departments. Academic and research faculty holding appointments in an academic department or school shall be the only faculty constituent members of that department or school.”

To “~~a. Academic Departments:~~”

[Item 5] Article II.C.a: Add “i. Academic and research faculty holding appointments in an academic department or school shall be the only faculty constituent members of that department or school.

ii. ~~Librarians and archivists holding appointments in the Library shall be the only non-faculty academic constituents of the Library.~~”

[Item 6] Article II.C.b.ii Change from “There shall be no more than 12 professional staff representation units, including independent research units. One of the units shall be the Library. The other eleven shall be composed as defined by the Bylaws. The groupings of the professional staff units are only for Senate representation. The reporting structures of constituents within any one unit may differ.”

To “There shall be no more than ~~12~~ 11 professional staff representation units, including independent research units. ~~One of the units shall be the Library. They~~ shall be composed as defined by the Bylaws. The groupings of the professional staff units are only for Senate representation. The reporting structures of constituents within any one unit may differ.”

Rationale: If non-faculty academics, including librarians and archivists are to be considered academics, it follows that the Library should be added to the Academic Departments.

[Item 7] Article III.G.2. Change from “Only Faculty Senators or their Alternates, including at-large Faculty Senators, may vote on academic matters.”

To “Only Faculty Senators, [Academic Rank Librarians and Archivists Senators](#) or their Alternates, including at-large Faculty Senators, may vote on academic matters.

[Item 8] Article III.G.3. Change from “Only Faculty Senators or their Alternates, including at-large Faculty Senators, and Professional Staff Senators representing independent research units or their Alternatives may vote on research matters.”

To “Only Faculty Senators or their Alternates, including at-large Faculty Senators, [Academic Rank Librarians and Archivists Senators](#), and Professional Staff Senators representing independent research units or their Alternatives may vote on research matters.”

Rationale: If non-faculty academics, including librarians and archivists are to be included in the Senate Constituency, it follows they must be identified within the Voting Functions of the Senate Constitution.

[Item 9] Bylaws Section II.A.14 Add “Library” and renumber accordingly.

[Item 10] Section II.B.7 Remove “Library” and renumber accordingly.

Rationale: The Library is represented in the Senate by non-faculty academics, including librarians and archivists. It follows then that the Library should be listed as an Academic Department in the the Representation Units of the University Senate Bylaws.