

General Recommendation of Five Amendments to Part Five of the Faculty Handbook

The Faculty Handbook Committee is bringing five amendments to the Faculty Handbook forward to the Faculty for a vote. We have considered comments regarding some of these amendments both from last academic year and more recently on our discussion board. We appreciate the suggestions and concerns that have been proffered by the faculty. Faculty feedback has resulted in changes to the proposals. We have discussed these amendments at length in our committee and voted affirmatively to bring them forward.

The amendments will be referred to as:

AMENDMENT 1: Revision of Votes Required to Amend the Handbook

AMENDMENT 2: Revision of Eligibility to Vote during Leaves of Absence

AMENDMENT 3: Revision of Amendment Procedures

AMENDMENT 4: Distribution of Handbook Amendments to Faculty

AMENDMENT 5: Electronic Copy of Handbook the Official Version

Amendment 2-5 have the unanimous support of the Faculty Handbook Committee. Amendment 2 will strengthen voting rights of faculty in that the default for faculty members on leave will be that they retain their right to vote, rather than lose the right to vote unless they request permission to retain it. Amendment 3 will require a more extended review of amendments to the Faculty Handbook. There will be a review period added in which both the general faculty and the Faculty Handbook Committee will have an opportunity to comment and make suggestions to the proposing body regarding the draft proposal. The final proposal will then be brought to the faculty by Faculty Council, with the Faculty Handbook Committee's recommendation, and there will be a second review period before the vote. This will provide greater opportunity for faculty discussion, and with the extra review, we feel that proposals that succeed in the review and revision process will be better crafted proposals.

Amendment 4 in will change the distribution of amendments that pass by making it possible to distribute the amendments to the faculty electronically. Amendment 5 is an addition to the Handbook that requires the Faculty Handbook Committee to change the Handbook within thirty days of any amendment and makes the online version of the handbook the official version of the Handbook.

All six members of the Faculty Handbook Committee support amendments two to five, and we strongly urge all of our colleagues eligible to vote to vote affirmatively for these amendments.

Amendment 1 does not have unanimous support within our committee. Five members strongly support it, one member strongly opposes it. A rationale for the amendment is attached to the amendment that is posted in Faculty Business - Sensitive. However, we are providing both a majority recommendation and a minority recommendation regarding the amendment so that faculty can better consider both the perceived positive aspects and the perceived negative aspects of this amendment. The two differing recommendations are posted as **majority recommendation** and **minority recommendation**. The committee is united in hoping that a large majority of the faculty will vote on this issue so that we have a clear message concerning the will of the faculty.