

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: Kathy Pollock, Chair
Executive Committee

DATE: August 29, 2017

SUBJ: Amendment to the Bylaws of the Fort Wayne Senate: Academic Organization
Subcommittee

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Faculty of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) grants the Voting Faculty of IPFW the power “to make recommendations concerning . . . changes in academic organization” as well as the power “to review and approve . . . the titles of the academic degrees conferred at IPFW” and “the general requirements for the curricula leading toward academic degrees or certificates”; and

WHEREAS, Decisions to create new academic programs have historically followed the provisions of the Senate Constitution and Bylaws; however, decisions to restructure or eliminate academic programs have been made without sufficient input from the faculty or oversight by the Senate; and

WHEREAS, The Senate has lacked clear structures and policies to govern the modification or elimination of academic programs; and

WHEREAS, Senate Document SD 15-26 was written primarily to address circumstances of financial crisis or exigency and has not been easily adaptable to meet other circumstances;

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate Bylaws shall be amended as described below to establish an Academic Organization Subcommittee, which shall report to the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) and be given the powers described in the proposed bylaws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That EPC and the Executive Committee shall prepare the Senate Document referenced in the proposed bylaws outlining the procedures to be followed by the Academic Organization Subcommittee, and shall submit those procedures to the Senate for approval by the December 2017 Senate meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the bylaws establishing the Academic Organization Subcommittee shall become effective as soon as its procedures are approved by the Senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the bylaws establishing the Academic Organization Subcommittee shall be automatically updated to include the correct Senate Document number when the Subcommittee's procedures are approved by the Senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Curriculum Review Subcommittee shall be eliminated, and its responsibilities assigned to the Academic Organization Subcommittee when its bylaws become effective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the current members of the Curriculum Review Subcommittee shall comprise the membership of the new Academic Organization Subcommittee for the remainder of the 2017-18 academic year, but the entire Subcommittee shall be elected anew for the 2018-19 academic year, with terms of new members staggered in an appropriate manner by the Nominations and Elections Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Senate Document SD 15-26 shall be rescinded when the Academic Organization Subcommittee becomes effective, and references to SD 15-26 in the Bylaws shall be removed.

5.3.3.2.3.4 Academic Organization Subcommittee

5.3.3.2.3.4.1 Membership: The Academic Organization Subcommittee shall consist of:

5.3.3.2.3.4.1.1 The Chief Academic Officer of IPFW, who may send, when unable to attend committee meetings, a designee to serve as a nonvoting member;

5.3.3.2.3.4.1.2 Three members from the College of Arts and Sciences, one each from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities; and one member from each of the other Major Units; elected by the Voting Faculty of their Major Unit;

5.3.3.2.3.4.1.3 The Presiding Officer of the Senate shall request the Student Government to select two nonvoting student representatives. Student representatives shall serve for one year, with the term to commence one week before the beginning of regular fall classes.

5.3.3.2.3.4.2 Responsibilities: The Academic Organization Subcommittee shall advise the Senate concerning all matters related to the academic organization of IPFW, including, but not limited to:

5.3.3.2.3.4.2.1 The creation of new or the modification of existing academic structures (e.g., departments, schools, and colleges);

5.3.3.2.3.4.2.2 The creation or elimination of academic programs;

5.3.3.2.3.4.2.2.1 “Academic programs” in this context shall mean any group of courses constituting a major, degree, degree option, concentration, certificate program, or similar entity;

5.3.3.2.3.4.2.3 The Faculty’s right of review of the undergraduate curricula;

5.3.3.2.3.4.2.4 Upon a request from the Senate, an academic unit, or IPFW’s Chief Academic Officer, examine and report on existing academic programs and new or proposed courses. Such examinations shall be requested only when significant questions of proper sponsorship or academic quality arise, or as part of an IPFW-wide effort to ensure the periodic review of academic programs by a body functioning above the department level. Upon the completion of this examination, the Subcommittee shall:

5.3.3.2.3.4.2.4.1 Report to the Senate “for information only” its

finding that no Senate review is appropriate; or

5.3.3.2.3.4.2.4.2 Advise the Senate of its finding that the Senate should exercise its right of review.

5.3.3.2.3.4.3 Procedures for carrying out these responsibilities can be found in Senate Document SD 17-XX.

5.3.3.2.3.4.3.1 In establishing and periodically updating these procedures, the Senate shall be attentive to the rights of Faculty as well as the administrative responsibilities of IPFW's department chairs, deans, Chief Academic Officer, and other relevant administrators.

5.3.3.2.3.4.3.2 The Academic Organization Subcommittee and the Senate must balance considerations of university, Major Unit, and department finances; efficiency; student demand; and quality of academic offerings with the rights of Faculty and students.