Faculty Senate Agenda Item

Submitted By: Executive Committee
Title of the Proposal: Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee membership, function and quorum revisions

Description: Upon the recommendation of the Chair of the Academic Standards Committee, remove membership for students and various directors, clarify Committee functions, and institute a workable quorum requirement.

Sections of Regents Handbook, Senate Constitution/Bylaws Affected:
Additions in **bold underline**; deletions in strike through.

Title, Chapter, CHAPTER

Faculty Senate Bylaws, Section 5, Article 5: Committees

1. Academic faculty from each degree granting college and school (**voting**)
2. Undergraduate students
3. Graduate student
4. Dean, Graduate College or designee (ex-officio, non-voting)
5. Director, Academic Enrichment & Outreach or designee (ex-officio, non-voting)
6. Director, Academic Enrichment/Financial Services or designee (ex-officio, non-voting)
7. Executive Director Academic Advising (ex-officio, non-voting)
8. Dean, Academic Success Center or designee (**voting**)

Faculty Senate Bylaws, Section 6: Article 6: Standing Committee

6.2 The Academic Standards Committee shall periodically review policy, recommending revisions in current academic policy whenever desirable. It shall also be responsible for the following undergraduate areas.
6.2.1 Reviewing applications for readmission for students on scholastic suspension.
6.2.2 Monitoring policy changes to ensure their implementation.
6.2.3 In the event an academic matter (graduate or undergraduate) results (after the appropriate college academic standards committee has heard the matter) in the need for a hearing, the three student representatives from the Academic Standards Committee and three faculty members from the Academic Standards Committee will serve on a hearing panel. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Executive Committee of the Senate for distribution to the appropriate parties, which shall include the student and the faculty member.
6.2.4 Reviewing petitions for the removal and withdrawal of classes and/or grades.
6.2.5 Reviewing academic policy as it relates to the functioning of the Committee.
UNLV Bylaw Amendment

**Arguments For:**

**Membership changes**- Many student petitions involve matters of student confidentiality and the inclusion of students on the Committee will likely lead to breaching of confidential matters. Additionally, only one student has been proffered to the Committee in a decade. Deans and Directors, or their designees, as referenced in Section 5.1 of the Faculty Senate By-laws do not attend in practice.

**Function changes**- In order to fulfill the Committee’s charges, the Committee must remove and withdrawal class and/or grades, as well as, review academic policy that impacts the Committee’s work. Finally, inclusion of students on the Committee as outlined above is not warranted.

**Quorum changes**- Proxies may not be appointed under Senate By-Law 5.15. Also, the only workable quorum requirement is “a majority of the voting faculty members present at a Committee meeting.”

**Arguments Against:**

**Membership changes**- Students and unit directors may feel disenfranchised despite having almost never attended. Students and unit directors will be consulted as necessary per committee procedures.

**Function changes**- Other university units may feel this impacts their work.

**Quorum changes**- This may encourage non-attendance.

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*if required