

## **Recommended Amendment to the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts Bylaws**

### **Summary**

The proposal is to replace the current two-year term of the president with a one-year term as vice-president followed by a one-year term as president. Rather than elect a president every other year, the school would elect a vice-president every year.

### **Rationale**

There are several rationales for this recommendation:

- 1) It would make concrete the line of succession in the event that the president is unable to fulfill his or her responsibilities. Under the current bylaws, if the president is unable to carry out his or her duties, the president may select a member of the Agenda Council to carry out those duties instead. The proposed amendment would place that decision directly in the hands of faculty.
- 2) It would lighten the workload on the president. Currently the president attends five meetings a month at a minimum in addition to the other responsibilities. Having president and a vice-president would lighten that load by spreading it over two people.
- 3) It would allow the vice-president to pick up the responsibilities of the president in a gradual manner prior to assuming the office of the president.
- 4) It could encourage continuity inasmuch as there is one member from the previous administration in office at all times.
- 5) It *could* make it easier to field candidates since the obligations would not be as great.
- 6) A number of other schools on campus have similar administrative systems:

Science: each year a secretary is elected; the following year, the secretary assumes the position of president and in the year after that, the president assumes the position of past-president

Engineering and Technology: each year a president-elect is selected by vote and this person holds that position for a year; in the following year, he or she becomes president for a year

Public Health: each year a president-elect is selected; he or she assumes the office of president one year later and then the office of past-president at the end of the second year

Informatics and Computing: there is a president and a secretary, each serving one year terms; the secretary assumes the role of president if the president is unable to carry out his or her duties

(The IUPUI Faculty Assembly has both a vice-president and a president but both are elected to two year terms.)

**Relevant sections of the bylaws with the proposed amendments in bold.**

Section 2.a. Duties of the President

The duties of the President **and Vice-President** include the following:

- (1) Schedule and preside over meetings of the Faculty Assembly
- (2) and the Agenda Council or designate someone as needed.
- (3) Represent faculty concerns to the Dean and Associate Deans, as necessary.
- (4) Attend weekly Dean's staff meetings.
- (5) Attend and/or monitor monthly department chairs meetings, as appropriate.
- (6) Approve minutes of Faculty Assembly meetings before they are distributed.
- (7) Work with the Agenda Council to fill any School committee positions that may become vacant during the year.
- (8) Ensure the currency of these bylaws, and propose amendments for the good of order.
- (9) Appoint a parliamentarian annually.
- (10) Work with the School webmaster to ensure currency and accuracy of the Faculty Assembly web site.
- (11) Represent School faculty at selected special events on campus (e.g., convocations).
- (12) Perform other duties appropriate to that office or as requested by the Faculty.

Section 3.a. Term of Office

**The vice-president is elected for a one-year term. At the end of the academic year following his or her election, the vice-president will assume the role of president for that year. Members of the Agenda council** are elected by the voting faculty and shall serve for a two-year term; they may be elected to serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

These terms of office shall be staggered so that two members-at-large of the Agenda Council shall be elected during one year, and the Secretary and two members-at-large shall be elected the following year. Terms of office will run from May 1 to April 30. Newly elected Officers need to be available immediately after the transition meeting scheduled at the end of the spring semester.

Section 3.c. Replacement of Officers

In the event that an officer **other than the President** must be replaced, the Agenda Council shall make an effort to distribute the names of at least two faculty members to fill the unexpired term. If a meeting of the Assembly is scheduled during that month, the election will be held at that meeting. If no meeting is scheduled, the voting may be conducted by a secure ballot. **In the event that the President must be replaced, the Vice-President shall assume that position and a new Vice-President will be selected in accordance with the rules described above.**