

## Notes from the Constitution Workgroup on the New Constitution 2021 April 5<sup>th</sup> Draft

**Title/document:** Our current constitution and by-laws are combined into [one document](#), last updated in 2014. Even though the document has not yet been updated, there have been amendments made/passed by the Executive Committee over the years, and one (the PT faculty vote) was formally approved by the senate via general elections (in June 2020), although the document itself was never updated until now. The Constitution Workgroup recommends separating out language that belongs in a true Constitution (which requires a vote of the full senate to update) from By-Laws (which can be updated by the Executive Committee more frequently/as needed), however the timeframe for changes this year, we were not able to address this recommendation, and would recommend to the Exec Committee that we postpone that separation until next year (understanding we will again have to run a general election for Constitution updates).

**Preamble:** This new Preamble was adopted by [resolution](#) (as an amendment to the Constitution) in February 2017. One addition made (in red).

**Article 1:** No Change

**Article 2:** Minor changes (in red) and updated document to reflect language agreed to in June 2020 elections on PT vote.

**Article 3:** Minor changes (in red)

**Article 4:** Major updates to add additional officer: Executive Vice President, and to clarify current practice/duties of existing Vice President, to be Vice President of Curriculum. *These proposed changes are contingent upon the Senate receiving additional release time funded by the College.*

**Article 5:** Major updates to the composition of the Executive Committee to make current division representation, some proposed changes to the PT faculty reps (now to be called At Large PT Faculty Senators), clarification of senator duties, and proposal to add additional voting members to the Executive Committee, including four non-faculty positions.

**Article 6:** Some significant changes on eligibility of officers and senators to reflect full and part-time faculty eligibility.

**Article 7:** Minor change to reflect changes in Article 5.

**Article 8:** No change for now – will work on this section for next year.

**Article 9:** Minor change.

### **Constitution Workgroup Suggested Discussion Points/Future Work:**

- Division representation – are these the right divisions? Other forms of representation?
- Options for “liaisons” – associate members with or without voting rights? Make motions? Other?
- Options for officers if we don’t get enough release time
- Separate out Constitution and By-Laws
- Add in section (to by-laws) on release time, and how it’s assigned
- Updated the section on Committees to reflect existing governance structure
- Clarify appointment process for faculty to committees
- Clarify the role of senate-appointed faculty to governance councils
- Senator training and onboarding – *in by laws??*
- Creation of a Senate Handbook?
- Formal recruitment and mentoring strategies – *in by laws??*
- Analysis of fiscal health of the senate – changes in revenues and process for approving expenses? – *in by laws??*