

Resolution on Apportionment of Tenure/Tenure Track and Non-Tenure Track Senators

Whereas the University of Tennessee at Knoxville is a major, public, land-grant research university;

Whereas the University's strategic plan includes becoming a top-25 research university;

Whereas this development is supported by all faculty, the majority of research and related, or similar scholarship is conducted by tenured and tenure-track faculty members;

Whereas criteria for promotion and tenure include leading the institution in research, creative activity, scholarship, outreach and engagement;

Whereas primary responsibility rests with the tenured faculty regarding relationships with administration of the University campus and system;

Whereas many Faculty Senate and University functions, such as maintaining criteria and procedures for tenure and promotion require the leadership and perspective of tenure track/tenured faculty members;

Whereas the Faculty Senate is open to election of tenured and tenure-track members and non-tenure-track members, in the spirit of fairness of representation in the Senate; and

Whereas the current ratio of tenured/tenure-track faculty per non-tenure track senate-eligible faculty is approximately 73%/27% respectively; now therefore be it

Resolved, that in the Faculty Senate:

1. the apportionment of elected senators for a given two-year period will reflect the numbers of each group's occurrence among the senate-eligible general faculty group; the ratio shall be maintained at 73% of tenured-tenure track to 27% non-tenure-track faculty, plus or minus 3%;
2. these numbers shall be subject to future adjustment, based on changes in the ratio of senate-eligible tenured, tenure-track faculty to non-tenure-track faculty in the general faculty group;
3. in the senate term for 2015-2016, there will be no new non-tenure track faculty elected;

4. during the 2015-2016 senate term, the Faculty Senate Executive Council and the Faculty Senate as a whole shall propose bylaws revisions and changes to caucus election procedures as are necessary to keep the ratio of tenured/tenure-track faculty to non-tenure track faculty as stated in this resolution; and
5. comparison to aspirant universities' faculty senates will be included in the process of establishing best practices regarding senate composition and organization, in view of the Faculty Senate's mission and goals.

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Mover: Candace White