

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY  
University Senate

Resolution to Amend the *General Faculty Constitution* to  
Clarify the Voting Membership of the General Faculty

11-15/16-CBC- December 1, 2015 – Second Reading

**RESOLVED:** That a Faculty Session of the University Senate of Humboldt State University recommends the attached amendments to the *Constitution of the General Faculty* be forwarded to the General Faculty for ratification in Spring 2016.

**RATIONALE:** *The Constitution of the General Faculty currently restricts voting in General Faculty elections to “faculty in-residence” – which is defined as faculty with a current teaching assignment. This restriction essentially disenfranchises faculty on sabbatical, FERP faculty who are not teaching during the semester in which an election is held, and administrators with retreat rights. Strict interpretation of the “faculty in-residence” definition would also disenfranchise faculty without teaching assignments such as librarians, counselors and coaches. In practice, all of the aforementioned faculty are forwarded general faculty election announcements and are given the opportunity to log-in to the voting system to cast a vote.*

*The attached amendments make the General Faculty Constitution consistent with what has been done in practice by: (1) re-defining the term “in-residence”; (2) striking the “in-residence” qualifier from a number of sections of the General Faculty Constitution; (3) formally recognizing voting membership for administrators with retreat rights; and (4) formally excluding voting membership for professors emeriti since historically they have not been granted the right to vote in general faculty elections.*

*The “in-residence” qualifier is maintained in any sections that relate to a member’s eligibility to hold office or to establishing quorum for meetings of the General Faculty.*

Proposed Revisions with Track Changes

## 2.0 MEMBERSHIP

2.1 ~~Membership — The voting m~~Membership ~~in of~~ the General Faculty shall consist of:

~~(1) 2.11 Full-time faculty unit employees (including tenures faculty, probationary faculty, librarians, counselors and coaches) members of the university faculty who hold academic rank of assistant professor or above in an instructional unit; (2) full-time librarians; (3) full-time coaches; (4) full-time counselors;~~

~~(5) 2.12 Part-time faculty unit employees (including -lecturers, librarians, counselors, coaches, and rehired annuitants) , -and counselors -~~holding at least a one-year appointment with a time base averaging at least .40 of full time

- ~~(6)~~2.13 FERP faculty

2.14 Administrators with academic retreat rights

~~;~~ ~~and (7) professors emeriti.~~

2.2 The non-voting membership of the General Faculty shall consist of:

2.21 professors emeriti who are neither: rehired annuitants fitting the conditions of section 2.12 or FERP faculty

~~2.32-2~~ The term “in residence” shall be defined as a faculty unit employee with a current assignment. — Faculty members with a current teaching assignment are considered “in residence.” Faculty members on sabbatical or other type of leave are not considered “in residence.”

2.4 Other individuals may be admitted into membership ~~Upon recommendation of by a faculty session of the University Senate and ratification by a two-thirds majority of General Faculty votes cast upon two-thirds approval of the voting~~ General Faculty in residence, other individuals may be admitted into membership.

4.11 – The General Faculty President and the Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by a majority of General Faculty votes cast ~~of the General Faculty members in residence.~~

4.2 Members Eligible to Hold Office – Any member of the General Faculty ~~in residence~~ is eligible to ~~be serve as~~ President if they have completed after three years of employment by the University prior to taking office and they will be “in-residence” during the term of office. Any member of the General Faculty ~~in residence~~ is eligible to serve as Secretary/Treasurer if they have completed after one year of employment by the University prior to taking office and they will be “in-residence” during the term of office.

5.4 Policy Matters, voting – The General Faculty shall consider such policy matters as are brought before it by the University Senate. The final vote on any matter referred by the University Senate shall be taken by secret ballot with provisions for proxy voting by the General Faculty ~~in residence~~. Such voting does not require the calling of a meeting.

8.5 Secret Ballot and Voting – All elections shall be conducted by secret ballot with provision for proxy voting by the General Faculty ~~in residence~~.

9.3 Ratification – Amendments to this Constitution shall be ratified by a majority of General Faculty votes cast ~~of the General Faculty in residence~~, consistent with the provisions in section 8.0.

Proposed Language with Revisions Accepted

## 2.0 MEMBERSHIP

2.1 The voting membership of the General Faculty shall consist of:

2.11 Full-time faculty unit employees (including tenures faculty, probationary faculty, librarians, counselors and coaches)

2.12 Part-time faculty unit employees (including lecturers, librarians, counselors, coaches, and rehired annuitants) holding at least a one-year appointment with a time base averaging at least .40 of full time

2.13 FERP faculty

2.14 Administrators with academic retreat rights

2.2 The non-voting membership of the General Faculty shall consist of:

2.21 professors emeriti who are neither: rehired annuitants fitting the conditions of section 2.12 or FERP faculty

2.3 The term “in residence” shall be defined as a faculty unit employee with a current assignment. Faculty members on sabbatical or other type of leave are not considered “in residence.”

2.4 Other individuals may be admitted into membership upon recommendation by a faculty session of the University Senate and ratification by a two-thirds majority of General Faculty votes cast.

4.11 – The General Faculty President and the Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by a majority of General Faculty votes cast.

4.2 Members Eligible to Hold Office – Any member of the General Faculty is eligible to serve as President if they have completed three years of employment by the University prior to taking office and they will be “in-residence” during the term of office. Any member of the General Faculty is eligible to serve as Secretary/Treasurer if they have completed one year of employment by the University prior to taking office and they will be “in-residence” during the term of office.

5.4 Policy Matters, voting – The General Faculty shall consider such policy matters as are brought before it by the University Senate. The final vote on any matter referred by the University Senate shall be taken by secret ballot with provisions for proxy voting by the General Faculty. Such voting does not require the calling of a meeting.

8.5 Secret Ballot and Voting – All elections shall be conducted by secret ballot with provision for proxy voting by the General Faculty.

9.3 Ratification – Amendments to this Constitution shall be ratified by a majority of General Faculty votes cast, consistent with the provisions in section 8.0.