

CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL FACULTY OF HSU

DRAFT Revision of March 29, 2011

PREAMBLE: SHARED GOVERNANCE

The faculty members of Humboldt State University affirm the principles of shared governance as set out in Article I of the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act (HEERA) and affirm the responsibilities of faculty to participate in governance as articulated in the American Association of University Professors "Statement on Governance of Colleges and Universities" (1990) for the sake of the betterment of the University. The Constitution of the General Faculty defines membership in the General Faculty and provides a vehicle for the faculty to fulfill those responsibilities. Both those documents call on faculty and administration to contribute with good will toward shared and harmonious decision making in those areas in which faculty have interests and expertise. Since the faculty are among the members of the University community who most tend to accumulate long experience with relevant issues facing the university, and since faculty also clearly contribute in major ways both in their commitments and their duties to the educational and fiscal health of the university, it is to be expected that, for example, major planning, faculty personnel policies and decisions, and decisions regarding the curriculum and the means of its delivery will involve communication with and guidance of the faculty. In accordance with HEERA, the faculty also engage in collective bargaining with the California State University through the agency of the California Faculty Association, and therefore the resulting bargaining agreements and HEERA constrain and guide this constitution. HEERA also provides for the existence of Senates at the campus and system levels through which faculty are to participate in university governance.

1.0 NAME AND PURPOSE

1.1 Name –the name of this assembly is the General Faculty of Humboldt State University, hereafter referred to as the General Faculty.

1.2 Purpose – The purpose of the General Faculty is to assure that the collective knowledge, experience, and judgment possessed by the members shall be as fully utilized as possible in providing students with educational opportunities, in developing university policies and procedures, and in fostering a spirit of unity and cooperation among its members.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Membership – Membership in the General Faculty shall consist of (1) full-time 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) lecturers,

librarians, coaches, and counselors, holding at least a one-year appointment with a time base averaging at least .40 of full time, (6) FERP faculty; and (7) professors emeriti.

Upon recommendation of the University Senate and upon two-thirds approval of the voting General Faculty in residence, other individuals may be admitted into membership.

2.2 In Residence – 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.”

3.0 POWERS AND STRUCTURE

3.1 Functions – The function of the General Faculty shall be to implement authority assigned to it by the University President; to assist in the selection of future presidents of the university and future administrators of high rank; to administer elections wherein the General Faculty vote; and to help the University gather and express the views of the faculty regarding issues of governance.

3.2 Representation to Other Organizations – The General Faculty shall elect those persons who represent it to selected university committees, campus auxiliary governing boards, and state organizations.

3.3 Exercise of Powers – All powers of the General Faculty shall reside in the General Faculty except that certain functions may be exercised through the University Senate as herein provided.

4.0 OFFICERS AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

4.1 Officers – The elected officers of the General Faculty shall be a President who shall also be the Chair of the University Senate, and a Secretary/Treasurer.

4.2 Members Eligible to Hold Office – Any member of the General Faculty in residence is eligible to be President after three years of employment by the University and two years service on the University Senate prior to taking office. Any member of the General Faculty in residence is eligible to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

4.3 Term of Office – The General Faculty President and the Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by majority vote and shall hold office for a one-year term from the 1st of June following his or her election.

4.31 Other Terms of Office for elected General Faculty representatives shall be as defined in the HSU Faculty Handbook, Section 800. Terms of office for elected faculty senators-at-large and Lecturer senators shall be as defined in the University Senate Constitution and Bylaws.

4.4 Consecutive Terms – The President of the General Faculty and other elected representatives of the General Faculty included under section 3.2 shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive full terms in the same position.

4.5 Duties of Officers

4.51 – The General Faculty President shall (1) preside over meetings of the General Faculty; (2) shall preside over the meetings of the University Senate as provided in the Constitution of the University Senate and the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure of the University Senate (3) carry out the directions of the General Faculty; (4) Supervise General Faculty elections; and (5) perform the duties customarily performed by presiding officers, including making all arrangements for meetings of the General Faculty.

4.52 – The General Faculty Secretary/Treasurer shall see that records are kept of General Faculty meetings and that these records are available from the Senate Office. The Secretary/Treasurer shall also have responsibility for the oversight and management of any funds received or disbursed by the General Faculty.

4.6 Vacancies

4.61 The position of an elected officer or representative of the General Faculty (as defined in 3.2 of the General Faculty Constitution) shall become vacant when he or she (a) resigns from the position, (b) is absent but represented by a substitute for more than five consecutive regular meetings, (c) is absent and unrepresented for three consecutive regular meetings, (d) is absent with or without representation for five of eight consecutive regular meetings excluding those occurring while the member is on official leave, (e) fails to meet the eligibility requirements for membership in the General Faculty; or (f) goes on leave, regardless of reason, for more than one semester.

4.62 The Secretary/Treasurer of the General Faculty shall report leaves and extended absences of senators to the Appointments and Elections Committee, which shall certify the existence of a vacancy. The Appointments and Elections Committee shall recommend appointments to the Senate Executive committee to serve until the next regular election. The President of the General Faculty/Chair of the Senate shall convene a meeting of the Faculty Senators (Faculty Session) to vote on the recommendations. Any portion of the term remaining at the time of the next general election shall be filled by vote during that election as prescribed in sec. 8.0.

5.0 MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

5.1 – All meetings of the General Faculty shall be open to all members. The General Faculty shall meet as often as necessary to transact its business.

5.2 – The General Faculty President shall have the power to call a meeting of the General Faculty either upon his or her own initiative, upon the request of the University President, when directed to do so by a majority vote of the University Senate, or upon petition of at least

ten (10) percent of the General Faculty in residence—provided that each faculty member shall be notified at least one week prior of such meeting together with the agenda of business to be transacted.

5.3 Authority/Jurisdiction – The General Faculty shall have the authority to initiate, consider, and implement action related to the functions and procedures within its jurisdiction.

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.

5.5 Parliamentary Procedure – Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with parliamentary procedures articulated in Sturgis.

5.6 Quorum – One third of the total membership of the General Faculty in residence as herein defined shall constitute a quorum.

5.7 Proxies for voting at a meeting - A faculty member may appoint a member of the general faculty as proxy to vote for him or her at a meeting, but before that proxy may attend the meeting and vote, the appointing faculty member shall in writing notify the Secretary/Treasurer of the General Faculty.

5.71 No faculty member may be a proxy for more than one other faculty member at any single meeting.

5.8 – The Secretary/Treasurer will see that a record of actions at meetings is made and disseminated to the University community.

6.0 RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The General Faculty exercises its responsibilities to formulate, review, and recommend academic policies for the university to the President and other appropriate agents through its elected delegates to the University Senate.

7.0 FINANCES

The General Faculty may vote to authorize the collection of funds from members which may be disbursed for social or other purposes.

8.0 ELECTIONS

8.1 Election Dates – Elections for General Faculty Officers, General Faculty representatives to councils, boards or committees, three faculty senators-at-large and Lecturer senators shall be conducted so as to be completed before teaching schedules for the fall semester are determined.

8.2 Nominating and Elections – The University Senate’s Appointments and Elections Committee shall serve as the Elections Committee of the General Faculty. Nominations for General Faculty Officers and other General Faculty Representatives shall be made by the Committee in accordance with the provisions of the General Faculty Constitution, the Faculty Handbook and University Senate Constitution and Bylaws. The Committee shall conduct all elections of the General Faculty in accordance with the following provisions.

8.21 – Lecturers holding one-year appointments with a time base averaging at least .40 of full time shall nominate and elect the three Lecturer senators.

8.22 – The General Faculty shall nominate and elected three faculty senators-at-large.

8.23 – The University Senate’s Appointments and Elections Committee shall strive to ensure that at least two nominations shall be made for each elected vacancy.

8.231 – If a single candidate appears on the ballot, provision shall be made for a “write-in” candidate.

8.232 – If a single candidate appears on the ballot, that person must receive a simple majority (51%) of the votes cast in order to be considered elected.

8.24 – All ballots shall list nominees in alphabetical order.

8.3 Election Process – The General Faculty Officers and other General Faculty representatives selected through an election process shall be elected by a majority vote of those voting consistent with the following provisions:

8.31 With one position to fill – All nominees shall be listed on the first ballot. Those having the highest number of votes, and whose votes, when added together, constitute a majority of the votes cast, shall appear on the next ballot. Voting shall continue in this manner until one candidate receives a majority of votes cast.

8.32 With multiple positions to fill – In elections where multiple positions are to be filled, those whose votes when added together constitute 66.7% or more of the votes cast will be elected. If there are more candidates retained than required for multiple positions, a run-off election will be held of those candidates.

8.33 Unexpired terms – If unexpired terms are being filled by the election process, the candidate with the highest vote count shall select the term of office to serve, if more than one term length exists.

8.4 Special Elections -The President of the General Faculty may call special elections consistent with the provisions above (8.3).

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

9.0 AMENDMENTS

9.1 Proposing Amendments – Amendments this Constitution may be proposed to the General Faculty President/University Senate Chair. The proposed amendment(s) shall be presented at a faculty session of the University Senate for passage of a resolution calling for the amendment(s) to be forwarded to a vote of the General Faculty.

9.2 Notification of Members – The complete wording of any proposed amendment shall be made electronically available to all members of the General Faculty. This notification shall occur at least seven days prior to the election.

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