Resolution 2000-1. Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Abolish the Established Lectures Committee.

The General Faculty resolves:

Section 1. The Faculty Code of University Government is amended by repealing Section 4-14 and designating the section as “Reserved.”

Sec. 2. This amendment is effective upon adoption.

Comment: The 1999 Annual Report of the Committee on Established Lectures made the following recommendations, which were approved by the Faculty Council:

- Transfer ownership of the John Calvin McNair Lecture in Science and Theology to the Department of Religious Studies, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture on Civil Rights to the Chancellor's committee for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration, and the Weil Lecture in American Citizenship to the Institute for the Arts and Humanities.
- Appoint no new members to the committee for the 1999-2000 academic year but retain those members with terms remaining to assist with the transition.
- Abolish the Established Lectures Committee.

The first two recommendations have been implemented. The proposed amendment implements the third.

Resolution 2000-2. Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Make Possible the Election of the Chair of the Faculty in the Fall Semester.

The General Faculty resolves:

Section 1. Section 3-1(b) of the Faculty Code of University Government is rewritten to read:

“(b) The chair of the faculty shall serve for a term of three years and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election. Nominations and elections shall be held in the spring semester, every third year, and the person elected shall take office on July 1 following the election.”

Sec. 2. This amendment is effective upon adoption.

Comment: Under our current election procedures, chairs of the faculty are elected in late March or early April and assume office on the following July 1. The purpose of this change is to enable elections in the Fall semester with the thought that the incoming chair would have more of an opportunity to become familiar with ongoing faculty governance concerns. The change does not mandate Fall elections for faculty chair; it simply enables that option.

The General Faculty resolves:

Section 1. Section 4-2 of the Faculty Code of University Government is rewritten to read:

“§ 4-2. The Nominating Committee. (a) The Nominating Committee shall consist of all faculty members retiring from the elective faculty committees (Advisory, Athletics, Educational Policy, Faculty Grievance, Faculty Hearings, Financial Exigency and Program Change, and Honorary Degrees and Special Awards). The Executive Committee of the Faculty Council may appoint up to five additional members. Service shall be for one year and members are ineligible for nomination to an elective committee. The chair and secretary of the faculty shall serve as ex officio, non-voting members. The chair of the faculty shall convene the committee each year to elect its chair. The secretary of the faculty shall convene the Nominating Committee each year and shall serve as secretary of the Nominating Committee.”

Sec. 2. This amendment is effective upon adoption.

Comment: The first change in this section makes it possible for a retiring member of an elective committee to be nominated for election to another committee. It does not affect the provisions of § 4-1 which make a retiring member of an elective committee ineligible for election to the succeeding term on the same committee. If approved, the change would permit, for example, a retiring member of the Advisory Committee to run for election to the Committee on Financial Exigency and Program Change. The second change simply codifies current practice.

Resolution 2000-4. Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Change Representation on the Faculty Council from Strict Representation by Rank to Proportional Representation for Two Categories of Faculty.

The General Faculty resolves:

Section 1. Section 2-2(d) of the Faculty Code of University Government reads as rewritten:

“(d) The elected members of the Council shall be chosen by and from the electoral divisions defined in subsection (e) on the basis of one representative for each thirty-seven members of the voting faculty, or major fraction thereof, assigned to the respective divisions. In divisions entitled to two or more representatives, members shall be chosen on the basis of proportional representation of (1) professors, associate and assistant professors with permanent tenure, and librarians, and (2) all other ranks. If there are too few members of the voting faculty in either category to qualify for at least one representative, the two categories shall be combined. Representation is determined by the composition of the electoral division as of January 1 preceding the date of the election.”

Sec. 2. This amendment is effective upon adoption.

Comment: The current text of this section reads as follows:

“(d) The elected members of the Council shall be chosen by and from the electoral divisions defined in subsection (e), on the basis of one representative for each of the ranks of lecturer (or its
equivalent), instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor for each thirty-five faculty members eligible to vote in Council elections or a major fraction thereof of the same rank in the respective divisions. If there are too few eligible faculty members in a given rank to qualify for at least one representative, that rank shall be combined with the least numerous adjacent rank for purposes of computing representation and electing representatives. Representation is determined by the composition of the electoral division at the beginning of the fall semester of the academic year in which the election is held.”

The principal purpose of this change is to simplify the procedures for apportioning the Council, which now require apportionment among four rank categories. In most of the electoral divisions, the existing apportionment approximates the result that would be attained by the proposal to reduce the rank categories to two due to the practice of combining adjacent ranks when there are too few members of a given rank to qualify for one representative. The change also responds to the perceived need for first-term assistant and associate professors to concentrate their energy on their research and teaching. Indeed, many deans and department chairs discourage first-term assistant and associate professors from undertaking any committee service outside the department. Under the proposed change, service on the Council in the second category would fall largely to second-term assistant professors and fixed-term faculty. Finally, the change would recognize the current practice of apportionment on the basis of faculty composition as of January 1. The existing Code provision was not updated when the date of faculty elections was moved from the Fall semester to the Spring semester several decades ago. The change in the apportionment factor from 1:35 to 1:37 codifies the current ratio as fixed by the Committee on University Government pursuant to sec. 2-2(g).

Detailed information on the current apportionment of the Council and how it would be changed by Resolution 2000-4 is attached.