Motion 1

Background:
The Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) received a request from the Executive Committee to assess the existing language of section 6.3.7.2 of the Faculty Handbook regarding composition of the UFRC (see bold italics below):

“The UFRC shall consist of seven members (with the rank of professor) serving staggered two year terms. The seven member committee shall consist of one delegate from the humanities, one from the social sciences, one from the natural sciences and mathematics, and one from the professional departments with the other three delegates chosen with the objective of broadening the range of disciplines represented. Department chairs shall not serve on the UFRC.”

Rationale:
Reference to the term “professional departments” represents an artifact of when UMBC departments focused on pre-professional training may not have had well-recognized standards for scholarship or creative achievement. “Humanities” may not accurately reflect the composition of CAHSS faculty that includes visual and performing arts. Moreover, both the campus and many technical fields have grown from ‘professional departments’ to a college of engineering and information technology (COEIT) and other so-called ‘professional departments’ (e.g., Psychology, Emergency Health Services, Education) are represented within CAHSS. We believe the size of the COEIT faculty and the disciplinary traditions they represent merit explicit representation on the UFRC.

Because colleges represent a meta-level of disciplinary organization and inquiry, the FAC considered several different permutations of UFRC membership to more faithfully represent the current distribution of faculty among and within colleges (58% CAHSS, 22% CNMS, 18% COEIT of full-time instructional faculty). Seven members seem to be an appropriate number given above constraints on UFRC recruitment. The FAC considered single and double allocations to each college with the remainder allocated as at-large members. The FAC settled on the allocation of 1 member from CNMS, 1 from COEIT, and 2 from CAHSS (1 from social sciences [29%] and 1 from arts and humanities [26%]).

The FAC acknowledges that other departments and schools have their own distinct disciplinary traditions, yet their size and composition may not allow for explicit designation at this time. The FAC also recognizes that any selection criteria will involve some form of compromise, and that any attempt to balance selection criteria is difficult and will change through time. Therefore, FAC recommends preserving the flexibility inherent in the existing compositional guidelines as the most effective and most equitable approach for maintaining adequate disciplinary representation.

1OIR data, percentages are approximate:
http://www.umbc.edu/oir/DB/Employees/FT%20Instructional%20TTT%20by%20College%20.pdf
Motion:
The Faculty Affairs Committee recommends that Section 6.3.7.2 of the Faculty Handbook dealing with the composition of the UFRC be amended with the following changes (in bold below).

“The UFRC shall consist of seven members (with the rank of professor) serving staggered two-year terms. The seven-member committee shall consist of one delegate from the arts and humanities, one from the social sciences, one from the natural sciences and mathematics, and one from engineering and information technology with the other three delegates chosen with the objective of broadening the range of disciplines represented. Department chairs shall not serve on the UFRC.”

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