Brothers, Sheila C

From: Jones, Davy

Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2009 11:24 PM

To: Randall, David C
Cc: Brothers, Sheila C

Subject: FW: Request for Rule Interpretation RE: Honorary Degrees

David,

Below is the interpretation you requested of the SREC on the impact on the Senate Rules of the changes recently issued in the Administrative Regulation on the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees. The SREC also offers some options to the Senate Council for its consideration.

Davy Jones Chair, SREC

RECENT EVENT OF CONCERN.

The newly published revision to the AR on this committee makes the following changes from the version to which the elected Faculty Senators "opted" in the Senate Rules:

- 1. The Dean of the Graduate is no longer the mandatory Chair of the committee.
- 2. The Vice President for Institutional Advancement is removed as a standing ex officio, nonvoting member and instead the President is authorized to appoint any senior administration official (including other nonacademics) to that position.
- 3. The President has a new authority to unilaterally appoint the Chair of the committee.
- 4. Any member of the committee, including nonacademic standing members, and ex officio nonvoting members, are now eligible to be appointed as Chair.
- 5. The previous arrangement of 8 appointed members and 3 ex officio members is changed to 7 appointed members and 4 ex officio members (the Dean of the Graduate School being moved to "ex officio" voting status).
- 6. Ex officio members are also specified to be "standing members" which increases the number of "standing members" to 4.

INTERPRETATION ON THE IMPACT OF THE ABOVE CHANGES

- 1. The new language creates the result that a person who is nonacademic (e.g., Board Liaison member; or nonacademic member of the senior administration, such as an official in public relations) can become appointed as Chair of this academic committee that is utilized by the elected Faculty Senators for its Honorary Degree process in the Senate Rules.
- 2. In addition, the elected Faculty Senators in the Senate Rules had "opted" for a committee organization in which the President did not have unilateral authority to name the committee Chair. This is no longer the wording of the regulation.
- 3. Finally, the increase in number of "ex officio" and "standing" members may create confusion as to what numbers of which members constitute a quorum for action, in the following way. The

intention of the elected Faculty Senators in "opting" to utilize this committee to generate names of potential nominees was that by having <u>four</u> voting members chosen by the Senate Council, and <u>four</u> voting members chosen by the President, no person can emerge as a committee nominee over the unanimous disapproval of the four Senate Council-appointed members. However, if it becomes errantly misunderstood that all of the ex officio members, even nonvoting members, count towards a quorum, then 6 of the 11 total members can cause an official meeting to occur, even in the total absence of all four voting members appointed by the Senate Council.

OPTIONS THE SENATE COUNCIL MIGHT CONSIDER

- 1. Recommending that the wording of the Administrative Regulation be changed to reflect that the only senior administrators eligible to be appointed as Chair are those who are 'academic' administrators (i.e., individuals with tenured faculty appointments in a home educational unit).
- 2. Recommending that wording be inserted as follows:

 "The President, in consultation with the Senate Council Chair, shall designate the committee chair..."
- 3. Recommending that wording be added to the effect "A quorum for action is established by the attendance of a majority of the voting members."

Newly Published Regulation: http://www.uky.edu/Regs/files/ar/ar11-4.pdf
Previous Version of the Regulation: http://www.uky.edu/Regs/files/ar/ar101-2.pdf