

BFC Constitution and Rules Committee (CARC) 2024-2025

9-19-2024, 11:15 – 12:15 PM, Zoom

Attendees: Chase McCoy (Chair), Cate Reck, Lori Dekydtspotter, Annette Loring

For this meeting, we continued our conversation of the Constitution's Article IV. We also discussed Emeritus faculty and their role as voting members of the faculty.

1. Article IV Constitution Analysis

Prior to the meeting, an analysis of the total number of voting faculty on campus was conducted, including an analysis of the voting faculty at the time that Article IV of the constitution was introduced in 1975. Article IV has not been updated since that time. In 1975 there were 1402 non-retired voting on campus in addition to 92 voting Emeriti faculty, which made up 6% of the voting faculty. In 2024, there were 2,476 non-retired voting faculty, with 614 voting Emeriti. The latter making up 19.8% of the voting faculty.

Additionally, an analysis of our Big 10 peer institutions was done to analyze their numbers for calling for a full faculty meeting. Some of our peer institutions do not all non-faculty council or senate members to petition for a full faculty meeting, while others that do have numbers that are greater than ours, which is currently at 50.

2. Article IV Constitution Special Meeting

The rest of the meeting was spent proposing changes to the Constitution Article IV as it relates to number of voting faculty for submitting a petition to call a special meeting, number of voting faculty for quorum at a special meeting, and the number of voting faculty present at a special meeting for a vote to be ratified. CARC unanimously agreed that we should not limit the calling of a special meeting only by those on the BFC, as some of our peer institutions do. We also agreed that increasing the number of faculty to submit a petition for a special meeting should be done to legitimize the call for a special meeting, since the current number of 50 voting faculty only represents 1.6% of voting faculty.

The committee discussed changing the absolute numbers in Article IV to percentages. We discussed and agreed on the following should CARC decide to bring these changes before the Council: 10% of voting eligible faculty to submit a petition to call a special meeting; and 15% of voting eligible faculty needed to be present at the special meeting for quorum. Regarding the ratification of votes at special meetings, there were discussions as to whether if quorum is met then votes

should be sent to the full faculty for the voting, rather than having votes take place at the meeting. It was also discussed that a potential change could be that if a vote took place at a meeting, then greater than 50% of voting eligible faculty would need to be present for the vote at a meeting to be ratified without being sent to the full faculty for a vote. Regarding this latter proposal, CARC agreed to discuss this further in future meetings.