Resolution Concerning Voting Rights of Full-Time Non-Tenure Track Faculty

WHEREAS the BFC enacted BL-ACA-A3 in 2002 encouraging units to provide voting privileges to full-time non-tenure-track instructional faculty in unit deliberations as much as possible, and

WHEREAS robust shared governance depends upon the widest possible participation from faculty of all ranks, and

WHEREAS The Constitution of the IUB Faculty stipulates that the faculty governance structure at the unit level is in the hands of the unit faculty and that full-time Non-Tenure Track faculty may be granted voting rights by the tenure-track faculty as appropriate, and

WHEREAS over a 17 year period, units have come to widely disparate conclusions about how to deal with Non-Tenure Track voting rights, which affects the ability of full-time Non-Tenure Track faculty to participate in faculty governance in some units, and

WHEREAS faculty governance rights for non-tenure track faculty are subject to the provision of University ACA-18 whereby the voting participation of Non-Tenure Track faculty "must be structured in a way that reserves at least 60% of voting weight to tenure track faculty," and

WHEREAS Non-Tenure Track faculty now comprise approximately 30% of all faculty on campus, teaching a substantial number of courses taken by students from diverse units across campus and also contributing substantially to the research mission of many units, and

WHEREAS the ability to attract the best Non-Tenure Track faculty to campus will contribute to the long-term health of the Bloomington campus, and depends in part on according them appropriate status;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the recommended practice with respect to full-time Non-Tenure Track voting rights for units on the Bloomington campus is as follows:

Faculty Participation in Governance

All faculty appointed in the Clinical, Lecturer, Professor of Practice, Research Scientist/Research Scholar, and future full-time Non-Tenure Track appointment categories (as defined by the constitution) should have voting and participation rights at the campus, school and department levels that are equivalent to the voting rights of faculty appointed in the tenure-track category. Voting which pertains to the election of unit heads, department chairs, committee memberships, curricular issues and routine administrative issues, but not to tenure-track hires or promotion and tenure matters, should all follow the principle that full-time Non-Tenure Track faculty presumptively have voting and participation rights, subject to university policy that the tenure track faculty must have 60% of the voting authority.

Implementation of the 60-40 Rule

University policy requires that the tenure track faculty have at least 60% of the voting power within units. The rationale for the 60-40 rule is to protect the academic integrity of the school
and its programs. Not every vote taken by the faculty involves issues of this type. Thus, the 60-40 rule applies only in situations which involve academic integrity, examples of which might include revisions of unit governance documents, fundamental changes in academic direction of the unit and questions of inappropriate funding or collaborations. Each unit should clearly define the situations in which the 60-40 rule applies.

Reporting to Provost

The Provost or the Provost’s designee shall from time to time require the deans of the units at IUB to report on the participation and voting rights of full-time Non-Tenure Track faculty in the units and its departments, and shall present the results of such reports to the Bloomington Faculty Council at least once every three years.