

Appendix A

# Constitution of the Faculty of Illinois Institute of Technology

## **Article I - Name**

This organization shall be known as the Faculty of Illinois Institute of Technology.

## **Article II - Purpose**

The purpose of this organization is the advancement of education, scholarship, and research at Illinois Institute of Technology through:

- A. the formulation of academic policy;
- B. the maintenance of academic standards; and
- C. general participation in the affairs of the university.

## **Article III - Membership**

- A. The Faculty shall include the President, the Provost, all members of the academic staff who hold regular full-time faculty appointments at the university, and professors emeriti, but shall not include candidates for degrees from the university.
- B. The President, the Provost, all Tenure and Tenure-track and those Teaching faculty with Teaching Professor or Associate Teaching Professor rank as defined in the body of the Faculty Handbook shall be deemed “regular voting members” of the Faculty.
- C. A majority of the regular voting members of the Faculty voting at a meeting of the university faculty at which a quorum is present may extend fixed-term membership and voting rights to other faculty members as specified in Article I of the by-laws (Appendix B).

## **Article IV - Officers of the Faculty**

- A. The President of Illinois Institute of Technology shall be the President of the Faculty.
- B. The Secretary of the University Faculty Council shall serve as the Secretary of the Faculty.

## **Article V - Powers and Duties of the Faculty**

Subject to the by-laws of the university, as endorsed by the Board of Trustees, and to the exercise of the powers and duties vested in the Board of Trustees by the laws of the state of Illinois, the Faculty:

- A. shall be responsible for the educational program of the university;
- B. shall approve or disapprove all degree programs and all changes in curricula of the university;
- C. shall initiate inquiries about, review, and pass on such matters as may affect the educational program;
- D. shall examine and make recommendations concerning the general quality of student life:
  - 1. to enhance the educational programs for students,
  - 2. to enrich students' college experience in general, and
  - 3. to improve students' capacity for responsible self-government;
- E. shall review grievances and make recommendations concerning academic freedom, tenure, and faculty appointments;
- F. shall, as specified in the by-laws, elect or appoint such committees as may be required to conduct its affairs; and
- G. shall interpret and apply the provisions of this Constitution.

#### **Article VI - The University Faculty Council**

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the Faculty shall delegate the exercise of its powers and duties to a University Faculty Council, hereinafter sometimes called the UFC.
- B. The University Faculty Council shall consist of 25 members of the Faculty, selected as specified in the by-laws.
- C. The University Faculty Council shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary from among its members.
- D. Rules of procedure of the University Faculty Council are specified in the by-laws.
- E. The University Faculty Council shall have jurisdiction over such university matters as:  
academic freedom and tenure; faculty governance; financial affairs; computing services;  
undergraduate and graduate admissions; library matters; sabbatical leaves; student affairs;  
student academic grievances; graduate and undergraduate studies; nominations and  
elections related to faculty governance activities; and coordination of academic programs.

- F. Either the President or the Provost or both shall meet with the University Faculty Council at least once per academic year and at other times at the reasonable request of any one of the parties.
- G. The most recent previous UFC chair will serve in the capacity of “past-chair” as a non-voting officer (unless they are also a regular voting member of the UFC) serving in an advisory role.

#### **Article VII - The Faculty Senate**

- A. The Faculty Senate shall be composed of tenured professors, tenured associate professors, and active professors emeriti of the university.
- B. The Senate may convene, in accordance with the by-laws, to express its opinion on any significant issue of general concern to its membership.

#### **Article VIII - Meetings of the University Faculty**

- A. Not less than once each semester the University Faculty Council shall report its deliberations, decisions, and actions taken during that semester to the Faculty, at a meeting of the Faculty.
- B. At the request of a majority of the University Faculty Council or of the President, the Faculty may act on matters of particular significance brought before it by the University Faculty Council or the President. Any such action of the Faculty shall supersede any action of the Council.
- C. The Faculty may convene at any time in a special meeting called in accordance with the bylaws. At any such special meeting the Faculty may exercise its powers under Article V of this Constitution.
- D. Rules for meetings of the Faculty are specified in the by-laws.

#### **Article IX - Academic Units**

- A. An academic unit is an academic department, institute, school, or college without departments, which unit has at least one tenured faculty member whose primary appointment is in that unit, and which unit grants degrees. An academic unit shall formulate its basic policies only after discussion between the faculty and the chair or dean or director of that unit.
- B. Whenever the chair or dean or director of an academic unit submits to a committee of the university or an administrative officer a recommendation affecting the basic policies of the academic unit, the recommendation shall include a statement of the position of the tenured members of that unit on the recommendation.

- C. Tenure appointments shall be made only after due consultation with the tenured members of the academic unit in which the appointment is to be made in accordance with the current Promotions and Tenure Procedures of the University, as set forth in Appendix C.

#### **Article X – Amendments**

- A. This Constitution may be amended by a three-fifths majority vote of those voting at any meeting of the Faculty at which a quorum is present, provided that the Faculty shall have received the proposed amendment, in writing, not less than one month prior to the meeting. Any member or members of the Faculty may submit a proposed amendment.
- B. The by-laws of this organization may be amended by a majority vote of those voting at any meeting of the Faculty at which a quorum is present, provided that the Faculty shall have received the proposed amendment, in writing, not less than two weeks prior to the meeting. Any member or members of the Faculty may submit a proposed amendment.
  - 1. Action by the Faculty. A majority of the faculty voting at a Faculty meeting at which a quorum is present, provided that the Faculty shall have received the proposed amendment, in writing, not less than two weeks prior to the meeting.
  - 2. Action by the University Faculty Council. Upon receipt by the University Faculty Council of a proposed amendment to the by-laws, the University Faculty Council shall solicit comments from the academic units and present the proposal for discussion at a regular or special Faculty meeting. After receiving comments from the academic units and from the Faculty meeting, the University Faculty Council shall consider the original proposal, and any proposed modified form of the proposal, in light of the comments. If the University Faculty Council approves the proposed amendment, either in its original or in a modified form, by a vote of no less than two-thirds of the entire voting membership of the University Faculty Council, the University Faculty Council shall distribute to each eligible voting Faculty member a copy of the proposed amendment along with any supporting documentation. Subsequent to that approval, and upon request of at least 10 eligible Faculty voters, the University Faculty Council shall refer the proposed amendment for further consideration to the Faculty in accordance with subsection B.1, above. Upon submission of the proposal to the Faculty, the University Faculty Council shall cease to have jurisdiction as to the matter. If the University Faculty Council has not received such a request from at least 10 eligible Faculty voters within 30 days following distribution of the proposal, then the approval of the proposed amendment by the University Faculty Council shall be final.

#### **Article XI - Authority Vested in the Board of Trustees**

Under the laws of the state of Illinois, responsibility for the operation of the university is vested in its Board of Trustees, and accordingly:

- A. this Constitution and any by-laws adopted hereunder are subject to amendment or revocation by the Board;
- B. any and all rights, powers, duties, or responsibilities vested by this Constitution or its by-laws in the Faculty, University Faculty Council, Faculty Senate, or any officer or member must conform to the by-laws of the university, as adopted and amended by its Board of Trustees; and
- C. any and all actions or decisions taken or made pursuant to this Constitution or its by-laws are, at the election of the Board of Trustees of the university, subject to review and revision by the Board of Trustees.

## **Article XII - Shared University Governance**

The Faculty, acting through the University Faculty Council, shall provide recommendations to the President on matters of university policy prior to action on those policies by the President or the Board of Trustees. If a policy is referred to the Board for action, the President shall convey the recommendations of the Faculty to the Board along with the President's own recommendation. All such recommendations also shall be distributed to the Faculty. Nothing in this article is intended to preclude any faculty member or any academic unit from communicating directly with the President on any issue or to preclude the President from soliciting advice or comments from any faculty member or academic unit. The University Faculty Council may make recommendations on all matters of university policy including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. formation of the university budget;
- B. allocation of the university's resources and facilities;
- C. long-range planning of the university;
- D. standards of appointment, reappointment, promotion, tenure, and termination of members of the Faculty;
- E. composition of Faculty benefits and other matters of similar concern to the Faculty;
- F. appointment of all major academic officers, starting at the level of department chairs, deans, and directors;
- G. establishment or discontinuance of existing academic units with constituent faculties, the renaming of academic units, the merging of academic units, and the transfer of academic units between constituent faculties;
- H. new degrees and the discontinuance of existing degrees;
- I. admission standards and academic requirements for students;

- J. standards for curricula and content of all degree programs;
- K. standards and facilities for research and scholarship;
- L. evaluation of current programs, policies, and organizational structures with regard to their effectiveness;
- M. the development and introduction of new programs, policies, and organizational structures;
- N. awarding of degrees;
- O. awarding of honorary degrees;
- P. methods and procedures for evaluating faculty and academic unit performance;
- Q. methods and procedures for evaluating the performance of the administration and of administrative units;
- R. declarations of financial exigency; and
- S. amendments to the Faculty Constitution and/or by-laws.