April 16, 2009  SENATE RESOLUTION

On the Charter of Faculty Governance

Whereas effective Faculty Governance at Fayetteville State University, is crucial to the future success of the institution, and,

Whereas the Faculty Senate must comply with its Governance Documents to lead sustained effective faculty governance, and,

Whereas the Faculty Senate has been out of compliance with its Governance Documents for more than a decade (to a large extent because said documents contain contradictory and unwieldy policy specifications), and.

Whereas the Charter of Faculty Governance which is formally an amendment of the FSU Faculty Governance Document enjoys widespread support on campus (with the exception of a disagreement about the prerequisites for being a candidate for Chair), therefore:

The Faculty Senate respectfully resolves that the

1. The Charter as drafted on 3/18/09 (with minor and noncontroversial amendments subsequently agreed upon by the Governance Committee) is approved.
2. The Senate agrees that its Bylaws will be amended to specify that all candidates for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Faculty shall be a senator at the time of their nomination with eligibility to serve their department for at least an additional year, or shall be newly elected by their department to serve in the Senate.
3. The Senate agrees that its Bylaws will specify that the Senate shall select from nominations two finalist candidates for Chair, and two for Vice-Chair. The General Faculty shall select the Chair and the Vice-Chair from these candidates by majority election. For the election this spring, the Chair will call for nominations immediately. Nominations will close on 5/4/09. Self-nominations are encouraged. The Senate will select candidates at a called senate meeting on 5/7/09. The general faculty will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from these candidates on 5/11/09. The Vice-Chair elected on 5/11 will serve until 6/30/2011. The Chair elected on 5/11 will serve until 6/30/2010. The Chair’s replacement shall be elected by the faculty in January of 2010 as specified in the Charter.
4. The Senate agrees that its Bylaws will specify that the Chair may not serve consecutive terms (so that he/she may fairly administrate the election of his/her successor).
5. In order to record the vote of all faculty Senators (since a yes vote of 2/3 of all Senators is required to modify the old Faculty Governance Document, thus approving the Charter), the vote on this resolution at this meeting on 4/16 will be upon a written, signed ballot. The student administrative assistant of the Senate shall hand deliver each Senator absent from this meeting a written ballot, which the voter will sign and seal, and which will be opened and counted by a quorum of the Executive Committee, in order to provide an additional opportunity to vote.
6. The Charter shall be subsequently presented by Senators to a meeting of each Department by 5/1/09 where a vote of the faculty in each department will be conducted using a similar written, signed ballot (since a yes vote of 2/3 of all faculty is also required to approve the Charter). The student administrative assistant of the Senate shall hand deliver each Senator absent from this meeting a written ballot, which the voter will seal and seal, and which will be opened and counted by a quorum of the Executive Committee, in order to provide an additional opportunity to vote.

7. The current Chair of the Senate shall continue to serve until a new Chair is elected.

8. The Governance Committee shall draft revisions of the Bylaws for consideration by the Senate at its called meeting on 5/7/09.