



MEMORANDUM

TO: Professor Jennifer English, Faculty Senate President

FROM: Vistasp M. Karbhari, Provost and Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Resolution 10/11-5

DATE: January 3, 2011

In continuation of our earlier discussions on the topic, and in response to your request, I am writing to formally document a response to the resolution.

I would like to state that I do understand and appreciate the spirit of the resolution. Based on the wording of the first two clauses of the resolution it is my assumption that this resolution addresses only those committees on which faculty are represented, and I am in complete agreement that faculty service on such committees should be acknowledged. I have raised the issue of faculty service on committees, both in terms of responsibility and acknowledgement, at a previous meeting of the Senate's Handbook Committee and look forward to jointly developing enhanced mechanisms to ensure that such service is shared by all faculty and that it be not only acknowledged but also appropriately addressed in issues related to tenure, promotion, and salary increases.

Notwithstanding my agreement with the intent of the resolution, in its present form the resolution is too broad and does not provide for issues of confidentiality that would be needed in faculty committees dealing with personnel matters and actions, nor with committees (beyond the Animal Care and Use Committee) where matters of sensitivity are addressed which could cause members to be concerned about participation.

I would also like to point out that committees that impact working of the University are also routinely formed at the program, group, department and college level and that this information is usually handled at that level rather than through the administration or a single point of contact. Interest in some of these committees would also conceivably be limited to faculty within those areas (usually a department or college) rather than the University at large and hence the sending of email may well be viewed as "spam" by a large majority of faculty.

While I am unable to approve the resolution as written, I do support the appropriate communication of committee membership in those cases that do not raise issues of confidentiality or sensitivity, and will ensure that membership on such committees is made known widely. I will also bring this to the attention of Deans of Colleges for committees at the College and levels within them.