


TO: Mitch Berbrier, President, Faculty Senate
FROM: Robert A. Altenkirch, Interim Provost and President 
DATE: September 1, 2013
RE: Senate Resolution 12/13-04: Definition of Faculty Representation on University-level Committees

University-level task forces, study groups, special advisory committees, and other such ad hoc groups are formed, from time to time, for specific purposes. It has been the practice of the appointing authority to consult with the President of the Faculty Senate and to solicit from her or him a list of suggested members from the faculty for such committees. The appointing authority has then generally selected members from the suggested list as well as members from across the university community taking into account various factors, including, but not limited to, purpose of the committee, diversity of membership, expertise of membership, etc.

The Resolution would appear to designate certain faculty members "appointed by the Senate" to committees to represent the faculty while other faculty members who may be appointed are not so designated. The Resolution has been discussed at length with the Academic Deans, the Associate Provost, and Campus Counsel. The former Provost discussed the Resolution with me as well. Based on feedback from those various discussions, the Resolution is not supported. Faculty from across the university bring a wealth of expertise and talent to committees. The current practice of appointing faculty members to university-level committees seems to function well, and adding restrictions to that practice that would be imposed by the Resolution is not supported.

c: Brent Wren, Associate Provost