

1 **THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE**
2 **FACULTY SENATE**

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5 **Senate Bill Oct-A: Notification to Senate on Deanships**

6 Bill History: 10/25/15 Before Fac Sen Executive Committee for initial consideration

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2 **WHEREAS:** The headcount of Dean- (and apparently Associate/Assistant Dean-) level
3 positions at UAH has increased significantly in recent years, and
4 **WHEREAS:** many Deanship creations have ultimately resulted in creation of supporting
5 Associate or Assistant Deanships and possibly office expenses for the
6 Deanship,
7 **WHEREAS:** in the fairly recent history of UAH, Administrators have announced ideas,
8 plans, proposals, and initiatives to merge or wind down certain academic units
9 in response to various factors, and
10 **WHEREAS:** in the fairly recent history of UAH, Administrators have instituted lay-offs of
11 staff and reductions in compensation for Chair-level faculty, with said actions
12 labelled as cost-saving measures,
13 **WHEREAS:** the increase in administrative positions at the Dean- (and Associate/Assistant
14 Dean-) level may impose an increased carrying cost for administration, and
15 **WHEREAS:** going forward, the increased carrying cost could result in cost pressures
16 ultimately resulting in renewed initiatives for staff or faculty furloughs or a
17 renewal of ideas, plans, proposals, or initiatives to merge or wind down certain
18 academic units (to possibly indirectly “fund” the administrative carrying cost),
19, and
20 **WHEREAS:** the Faculty share academic governance with the Administration, and Faculty
21 “buy-in” to new structures can be a critical component of their long-term
22 success or failure,

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24 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

25 That creation of any new Dean at the University of Alabama in Huntsville always be preceeded by: (1)
26 notification to the Faculty Senate by the Administration/Academic Affairs of the desire to create a new
27 deanship, (2) supply to the Faculty Senate by Administration/Academic Affairs of a written proposal for
28 deanship creation, showing justification for the deanship, with said report to include statements of
29 possible risks and benefits of the deanship, including possible impact on current units and the cost
30 structure of Academic Affairs, (3) an invitation by the Administration for Faculty Senate deliberation
31 and response on the deanship, (4) adequate time (typically at least 90 days for proposals submitted to

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32 Senate between the start of the Fall Semester and the mid-term mark of Spring Semester, and 120 days
33 for proposals submitted to Faculty Senate outside these times) for said Senate deliberation and response
34 (with additional time granted for said Senate response if requested by Senate leadership) and (5) due
35 consideration by the Administration of the Faculty Senate's response.

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37 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

38 that after adoption of this bill as a resolution by the Senate and Administration acceptance, that the
39 statements in the “NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED” section above be published as an interim
40 University Policy, numbered in keeping with the numbering scheme currently in use for University
41 Policies,

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43 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

44 that after adoption of this bill as a resolution by the Senate and Administration acceptance, that the
45 statements in the “NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED” section above be distilled into appropriate
46 form for the Faculty Handbook by the Senate's Governance and Operations (or Faculty and Student
47 Development) Committee, with said item then introduced to Senate as a proposal for Faculty Handbook
48 Amendment, with said Amendment to go through the full process identified in the Senate By-Laws for
49 all resolutions, and said Amendment, if approved by Senate, then to replace the interim policy
50 identified in the above “AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED” section.

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52 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

53 that upon adoption of this bill as a resolution, that the Faculty Senate leadership report the resolution
54 upon all Senate records and work to ensure that it be fully available to the University community.

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