To: UFC Council Members, 2014-2015

From: UFC Executive Committee

Date: September 4, 2014

Subj: Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Indiana University Faculty

The Executive Committee, following discussions in 2013-2014 and at its first meeting of 2014-2015, recommends two separate, but related, amendments to the Constitution of the Indiana University Faculty. The intent of one of these amendments is to replace language in the Constitution specifying that the Council shall have two Co-Secretaries who must come from different IU campuses with language specifying three Co-Secretaries; one from IUB, one from IUPUI (including the IU School of Medicine) and one from a regional IU campus. The intent of the second amendment is to change the title of these offices from “Co-Secretaries” to “Co-Chairs” of the Council in the Constitution, the bylaws and all UFC documents that currently refer to Co-Secretaries. If both amendments are approved by the IU faculty, the UFC would have three Co-Chairs.

Discussion:

The first of these amendments was initiated by the Regional Faculty Caucus. In practice, the Co-Secretaries of the UFC have inevitably come from IUPUI and IUB. The RFC believes, and the UFC Executive Committee agrees, that the Council (and IU Faculty) would be better served if the leadership of the council was expanded to include a faculty leader from a regional campus. The UFC leaders meet regularly with the IU President and other administrators; this would enhance input from the regional campuses. These three units (IUB, IUPUI and the Regional Campuses taken collectively) are in a number of ways roughly comparable (numbers of faculty members, students, etc.) and, administratively, IU often treats them as the University’s main academic components; it seems important that the regional campuses have appropriate status in the leadership of the Council. The Co-Secretaries lead the Executive Committee which, among many functions, sets the UFC Agenda; it would be helpful, we believe, to have more formal input to that from a regional campus leader.

Renaming the UFC leaders – from Co-Secretaries to Co-Chairs – was proposed by recent UFC Co-Secretaries. They found the title “Secretary” confusing since the Co-Secretaries don’t perform the duties normally associated with Secretaries of societies and associations. Calling the Council’s leaders Co-Presidents would be confusing since the President of Indiana University presides over the meetings of the UFC. Calling them Co-Chairs of the UFC better reflects their duties and avoids confusion with the President of the University.

The intent of the amendment creating three Co-Chairs (or Co-Secretaries should the second amendment not be approved by the Faculty) is to permit the BFC and IFC to each select a Co-Chair for the UFC and to permit the regional campuses (most likely through the Regional Faculty Caucus) to select the third Co-Chair.

The precise mechanisms for the selection of these three persons would be proposed by the respective groups and incorporated into the UFC bylaws. Thus, the amendment to switch to three Co-Chairs would be made by the IU faculty through amendments to the constitution, but the mechanism for doing so would be adopted by the UFC through amendments to the bylaws. This would simplify changing the
selection mechanisms should IUB, IUPUI or the regionals wish to modify the selection system in the future.

According to Section 6.1 of the Constitution of the Indiana University Faculty, amendments to the Constitution go to a vote of the IU faculty if they are approved by a majority of the members of the UFC at a UFC meeting. We’d hope this could occur at the September 9, 2014 meeting. The same section of the Constitution specifies what happens next but, simplifying somewhat, any amendment and background information about it is circulated to all IU faculty, each campus must – within one to three weeks – hold an open hearing on the proposals and within an additional one to three weeks there is a vote by all IU faculty on the proposals. The proposals are adopted if they are approved by a majority of all faculty voting and by a majority of those voting on a majority of the campuses. Amendments take effect upon adoption. If only the first of these amendments passes, the Executive Committee would solicit proposals from (1) IUB, (2) IUPUI and (3) the regional campuses specifying how each group proposes to select a Co-Secretary of the UFC and, perhaps following discussion with the relevant leaders of these groups, would submit proposed changes in the bylaws to the UFC for its approval. If both amendments pass, the Executive Committee would ask the three units to specify how they would select a Co-Chair of the UFC. If the proposal to switch from “Co-Secretaries” to “Co-Chairs” of the UFC passes, the Executive Committee would recommend to the UFC changing those titles wherever “Secretary,” Co-Secretary,” or “Co-Secretaries” currently appear in the Bylaws.

Specifics:

Amendment One:

The Executive Committee recommends that the UFC propose to the IU faculty amending Section 4.4.2 of the Constitution of the Faculty of Indiana University as follows:

**CO-SECRETARIES**
The University Faculty Council shall have **three** co-secretaries: **one from Indiana University – Bloomington**, **one from Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis** (including the IU School of **Medicine**) **and one from an IU regional campus**, who must be from different campuses. The bylaws shall provide for election procedures and terms of office.

Amendment Two:

The Executive Committee recommends that the UFC propose to the IU faculty amending the Constitution of the Faculty of Indiana University to substitute “Co-Chair” or “Co-Chairs” for “Secretary,” “Co-Secretary” or “Co-Secretaries” at all points where the latter titles appear in the Constitution (including “comments”) and empowers the UFC and the UFC Executive Committee to change these titles in the UFC bylaws and other relevant UFC policies.