

2 December 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate Executive Committee

FROM: Christopher Anderson, Chair, Organization & Administration (O&A) Committee

RE: Recommendation regarding formal defined role for past president of University Senate



The Organization and Administration (O&A) Committee was charged with the following at the start of this semester:

In almost every other faculty governance body and in most professional associations, the past-president has a defined role. Investigate the utility of having a person serve as president-elect, president and then as past-president. One pro is having the wisdom and knowledge of the president retained a year longer, and one of the cons is that the commitment made by the individual in that role is extended by one year. Identify any specific duties the past-president might perform and make a recommendation to SenEx by December 2, 2013.

The O&A Committee met on 11 October at 11:30 to discuss this and our other charge regarding committee structures and responsibilities. The minutes from that meeting reflect our discussion as follows:

Discussion among O&A Committee members revealed little enthusiasm for this charge, as no one was ostensibly in favor of formalizing a defined role for past-president of the University Senate or Faculty Senate, and several committee members expressed reservations.

Nevertheless, an ad hoc subcommittee was formed of Elizabeth Berghout and Kevin Lee, who agreed to conduct an investigation of formal roles for past presidents at governance bodies at peer institutions; Brian McDow offered to help identify a list of peer institutions as identified by the university for other purposes. The subcommittee will endeavor to provide a brief report by Friday 25 October.

Peggy Palmer observed that KU's Unclassified Senate had a formal role for its immediate past president, and she agreed to provide the subcommittee and chair references to relevant documentation.

The information gathered by the ad hoc subcommittee and members acting as individuals on this issue will be circulated among O&A Committee members for asynchronous consideration and discussion. Committee members were advised to be prepared for an end-of-semester meeting if deemed necessary after such review and discussion in order to provide a response to SenEx by its 2 December 2013 deadline.

Subsequent to that 11 October meeting the committee members identified in the minutes provided the additional information that resulted from their respective investigations, which was circulated among committee members on 18 November via email. At that time an asynchronous meeting via email was opened without objections and committee members were invited to express support of one of three

options: 1) an affirmative recommendation to identify a role for the past-president for the University Senate and then to specify duties; 2) a neutral recommendation to make a brief report conveying the information we found and suggesting that the University Senate as a whole take up the matter if so desired – without a formal recommendation from the O&A Committee; and 3) a negative recommendation to forward a recommendation against a role for the past-president of the University Senate. Out of 14 members of the O&A Committee, 12 responded in favor of a negative recommendation against establishing a formal role with specified duties for the past president; two committee members did not respond in any way.

In response to the expression of committee members' sentiments, an additional asynchronous email-based meeting was opened on 26 November. O&A Committee members were asked if they objected to closing discussion and absent objections to vote on the following resolution:

Resolution: As charged by the University Senate, the Organization & Administration (O&A) Committee investigated and discussed the utility of having a defined role for the immediate past president of the University Senate. Discussion among O&A Committee members revealed little enthusiasm for this charge, as no one was ostensibly in favor of formalizing a defined role for past-president of the University Senate or Faculty Senate, and several committee members expressed reservations. In particular, a past president could be available for consultation without having a designated formal role. Therefore, **the O&A Committee recommends against creating a formal defined role for the immediate past president of the University Senate.** We nevertheless append a summary of some of our research that documents roles for past presidents in other KU governance organizations and at governance organizations at other institutions.

As of 5:00 PM on 2 December 2013 there were no objections to closing discussion, 11 votes in favor of this resolution, one abstention, and two non-responses. Thus the resolution passes and expresses the will of the O&A Committee. As specified in the resolution, I have appended below some information regarding roles for past presidents in other KU bodies and at other institutions. With this report I hereby close the O&A Committee's consideration of this charge.

NB. The O&A Committee was also charged to “review the composition and leadership of the University Senate standing committees and recommend any needed changes . . .” An email survey of all committee members was conducted and the respondents' responses compiled by each respective committee. A summary report will be circulated among O&A Committee members shortly to see if additional investigations or actions are required.

Appendix: Summary of investigative findings regarding roles of past presidents.

O&A Committee members Peggy Palmer and Brian McDow confirmed that the Unclassified Senate has specifies a role for the immediate past president. That body's rules and regulations (see <http://policy.ku.edu/unclassified-senate/rules-regulations>) specify the following in Article VIII section 5:

The Immediate Past President, in order to establish continuity in the office of president, shall provide advice as needed at Senate and Executive Council meetings. The Immediate Past President shall hold voting seats in the University Senate and the University Senate Executive Committee. The Past-President will serve as the Senate's voting representative to the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) Unclassified Staff Council; the President-Elect will serve as the representative to KBOR if the Immediate Past President is not available.

In the event that there is a vacancy within the Past President position, the full Senate will vote for a representative among the pool of available Past Presidents who volunteer to be considered for the Past President role. If the Past President confirmed into the vacant Past Presidency position is a current Senator and continues to serve as a Senator, that person shall be recused of voting on matters that concern the Past Presidency position. If no candidates from the pool of Past Presidents are available to serve as a Past President, the full Senate will elect one of the four University Senate Voting Representatives to serve as Past President, and the voting representative vacancy will be replaced as outlined in Article VII Section 5. The Executive Council will elect a representative to fill the Past Presidential role of an interim basis if Past President responsibilities need to be filled before a replacement candidate is selected, and this vote shall be confirmed by the majority of the full Senate.

2. O&A Committee member Kevin Lee reports: "From what I could find only Indiana, Florida, and Virginia have Past President or Past Chair positions among our peer institutions (Michigan State, Buffalo, CU Boulder, Iowa, Missouri-Columbia, UNC, and Oregon)." Kevin provided the following additional information on Indiana, Florida, and Virginia:

Indiana University

Article III: Officers

Section 3.1: Officers

- 1. The Bloomington Provost shall routinely preside at meetings of the Bloomington Faculty Council. It is recommended that the University President preside for at least one meeting each semester.*
- 2. The faculty shall elect a Bloomington Faculty President, who shall serve as chief officer of the Council. Newly elected Presidents shall serve as President-Elect during the academic year subsequent to their election, President during their second year after their election, and Past-President during the third year after their election. President-Elect, President, and Past-President shall all be officers of the Council and serve as members of the Executive Committee.*
- 3. The Council shall elect from among its elected faculty members a Secretary, a Parliamentarian, and an Executive Committee. The Secretary and the Parliamentarian also shall serve as members of the Executive Committee.*

4. *The Faculty President shall preside at meetings of the Faculty Council in the absence of the Bloomington Provost or University President and shall be the presiding officer of the Executive Committee.*

Florida

Past Chair. The duties and functions of the Past Chair are:

- a. *to act as Chair in the event both the Chair and Chair Elect are absent or otherwise unable to act;*
- b. *to serve on the Senate Steering Committee; and 13 of 26 Amendments adopted by the Faculty Senate through January 27, 2011*
- c. *to perform such other duties as may be directed by the Senate.*

Virginia

Past Chair of the Faculty Senate

- a. *The immediate Past Chair of the Faculty Senate shall serve as a consultative officer of the Faculty Senate and of the Executive Council.*
- b. *The immediate Past Chair of the Faculty Senate shall serve as a consultative member of select committees of the Board of Visitors*