TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: Faculty Affairs Committee

SUBJECT: 15-16 FAC 3: Reconciling voting threshold differences between the requirements in the University Constitution and Bylaws

PURPOSE: For placement on the next available university-wide election ballot

ACTION REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the attached changes suggested to the University Constitution and Bylaws and approve the placement of the changes on the next available university-wide election ballot

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
At FAC’s November 18, 2015 meeting, FAC reviewed a referral from the Executive Committee requesting the review of the voting threshold differences between the Constitution and Bylaws. Amendments to the Constitution require only a 2/3 majority vote with no restrictions on voter participation while the Bylaws require a minimum participation of 1/3 of eligible voters, as well as a 2/3 majority for passage of items. After discussion, FAC voted to suggest the proposed changes below, as noted in bold red:

CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE X, Amendments to the Constitution
SECTION 1

The University Faculty may vote to amend this Constitution in a university-wide election of the regular faculty members. An amendment shall be adopted by the University Faculty when two-thirds of the members voting approve the amendment, a majority vote in an election in which a majority of the Regular Members cast votes, or two-thirds (2/3) approval vote in an election in which at least one third (1/3), but less than a majority of the Regular Members cast votes. University-wide elections shall have a minimum length of ten (10) academic days. The University Faculty shall not delegate the power to amend this Constitution except in pro forma cases provided for in Section 5 of this Article.