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Organization: Electrical and Computer Engineering, Pratt School

Section of the Handbook: [Appendix B: Bylaws of the University Faculty](#)

Description of Edit: Request to clarify statements in section V.C. "I know in practice that the clauses are followed and not the restrictive introduction, but as someone with a modified title, I would prefer clarity in the letter of the (by)laws."

B. The Academic Council is empowered to determine which faculty titles are consistent with the above criteria and which faculty are therefore eligible to vote in meetings of the university faculty and in elections to the Academic Council.

C. ~~All Only~~ faculty with the unmodified titles of professor, associate professor, and assistant professor, or with unique tenured titles associated with named chairs, are eligible to serve on the Academic Council. ~~Those eligible to serve on the Academic Council are:~~

~~1. All tenured and tenure track faculty, and~~

~~2. Those regular rank, non-tenure track faculty who are eligible to vote in Academic Council elections and who are in at least their third continuous year of service as a faculty member at Duke. Others also eligible to serve on the Academic Council are those regular rank, non-tenure track faculty who are eligible to vote in Academic Council elections and who are in at least their third continuous year of service as a faculty member at Duke."~~

Original Request:

From: Michael R Gustafson <mrg@duke.edu>

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 12:14 PM

To: acouncil@duke.edu

Cc: Steven Cummer, Ph.D. <cummer@duke.edu>; Christ D Richmond, Ph.D. <christ.richmond@duke.edu>

Subject: Faculty Handbook Bylaw Revision Request

Greetings –

My name is Michael Gustafson and I am an Associate Professor of the Practice of Electrical and Computer Engineering. I am writing to request a change to the Faculty Handbook regarding eligibility to serve on Academic Council. At present, Appendix B.V.C reads as follows:

“C. Only faculty with the unmodified titles of professor, associate professor, and assistant professor, or with unique tenured titles associated with named chairs, are eligible to serve on the Academic Council. Those eligible to serve on the Academic Council are:

1. All tenured and tenure track faculty, and
2. Those regular rank, non-tenure track faculty who are eligible to vote in Academic Council elections and who are in at least their third continuous year of service as a faculty member at Duke.”

The introductory text (“**Only** faculty with the unmodified titles of professor, associate professor, and assistant professor, or with unique tenured titles associated with named chairs, are eligible to serve on the Academic Council”) contradicts the two clauses. I think the bylaw should read:

“C. **All** faculty with the unmodified titles of professor, associate professor, and assistant professor, or with unique tenured titles associated with named chairs, are eligible to serve on the Academic Council. **Others also** eligible to serve on the Academic Council are those regular rank, non-tenure track faculty who are eligible to vote in Academic Council elections and who are in at least their third continuous year of service as a faculty member at Duke.”

I know in practice that the clauses are followed and not the restrictive introduction, but as someone with a modified title, I would prefer clarity in the letter of the (by)laws.

Sincerely,

Michael Gustafson

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