TO: SLA Faculty Assembly Executive Committee

FROM: Bylaws Review Committee, Herbert Brant and Scott Weeden, co-chairs

SUBJECT: Proposal on Membership of the Faculty in the Bylaws (Article 1, Section 1)

DATE: 25 October, 2019

In order to reflect the changing composition of the full-time faculty in the School of Liberal Arts, the ad-hoc Bylaws Review Committee recommends the following action item for consideration by the Faculty:

**Change the language in Article I, Section 1 of the Bylaws**

*Current situation*:

Presently, the Bylaws define membership in the following way: “The Faculty of the School of Liberal Arts shall consist of all persons with tenure or accumulating credit toward tenure in the School of Liberal Arts, clinical faculty, resident lecturers, and any persons whose membership is ratified by majority vote of those present and voting at a regular meeting of the Faculty Assembly.” (Article I, Section 1)

*Proposed new language*:

The Faculty of the School of Liberal Arts shall consist of (1) all persons in the following full-time, non-visiting academic appointments, regardless of probationary status or rank: tenure-line, clinical-line, lecturer-line, research-line, academic specialists, and professors of practice; and (2) any persons whose membership is ratified by majority vote of those present and voting at a regular meeting of the Faculty Assembly.

*Rationale*:

Faculty roles have changed over time and this revision will reflect the many roles faculty play in the school. It will also define voting membership in a way that is more inclusive of the various faculty roles in the school and it will better reflect the present realities of faculty membership in the school. Visiting faculty are not mentioned in our proposed new language, but the committee believes that the issue of voting rights for visiting faculty is covered in the latter half of the present bylaw and in this proposed language change. As stated in both, membership can be extended to “any persons whose membership is ratified by majority vote of those present and voting at a regular meeting of the Faculty Assembly.” Last April, the previous ad hoc Bylaws Review Committee recommended to keep the present language and affirmed that the present language gives department chairs the right to recommend visiting faculty for Faculty Assembly membership ratification through the process outlined in this bylaw.

*Known and expected benefits*:

The present Bylaws Review Committee anticipates that revising the language regarding membership will lead to greater participation among all faculty in the school. The result of this will be greater validity of voting results because a larger, more representative group will cast votes. Including more faculty roles in Faculty Assembly membership should also help Faculty Assembly to achieve greater participation in its activities, including participation on its various committees.