

To: CLA Senate
From: Anne Fliotsos, Chair, CLA Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC)
Re: Amendments to CLA by-laws (Action item, to be voted upon Dec. 13, 2011)
Date: November 28, 2011

In Spring 2011, the vice chair of the CLA Senate, Evelyn Blackwood charged the FAC to discuss the issue of poor attendance at CLA Senate meetings. At a meeting on October 12, 2011, the FAC presented possible amendments to the by-laws and also made several recommendations to the Dean's Office regarding voting. After discussion with the CLA Senate in October, we are now prepared for a CLA Senate vote on each of the three items below as amendments to the by-laws.

Action items to be voted upon individually for amendment to the CLA by-laws:

1. (Amendment to Article 2.04) One alternate senator will be elected along with the slate of three-year senators in each department. If an elected senator cannot attend, s/he must contact the alternate as a replacement.

[Note: In cases of a semester-long absences, the by-laws state, "Each department and regional campus shall establish the manner in which its faculty shall elect its senators and shall fill any vacancies of duration of one semester or more."]

2. (Amendment to Article 2.01) CLA Senators are expected to make regular reports about CLA Senate meetings to faculty in their departments as a mechanism for keeping lines of communication open.

3. (Amendment to Article 2.06, to be listed as 2.06.10) At the end of each semester the Dean's Office will report senate attendance to each department head. The head will address attendance problems with individuals as needed.

We further recommend that the Dean's Office notify the departments of the following (no action/vote required):

1. When electing new senators, the total number of terms already served should be indicated on the ballot after each name. (It is already stated in the by-laws that no senator should serve more than six consecutive years—2 terms—without a break, but some faculty serve the majority of their careers at Purdue, while others never or rarely serve.)

2. Instructions for voting should encourage an election of senators across several ranks of seniority as well as across subject areas within a department.

3. All newly elected CLA Senators should received a description of the CLA Senate that also provides his/her expected contribution.