

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Leah Bornstein, President

FROM: Dr. Russ Rothamer, Vice President Academic Affairs

DATE: April 16, 2015

SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Recommendation

Background:

Coconino Community College has affirmed our focus: “Student Success: The Heart and Purpose of CCC.” Our faculty, through encouragement and support of Academic Affairs, has researched the benefits of a faculty senate. The new organization proposes to have a positive impact on student success through academic quality and enhanced communication through a more deliberate faculty voice.

Averaging the past fall semester and our current spring semester, our part-time instructors make up 73% of our faculty, teaching 62% of our sections which equates to approximately 58% of our students. Academic Affairs has struggled in the past to set faculty committee meeting times and to mitigate other obstacles to maximize the inclusion of part-time faculty. The proposed faculty senate includes four full-time faculty - two from Arts and Sciences and two from Career and Technical Education. The senate will also include three part-time faculty (at least one from each division). In an effort to ensure faculty voice, especially part-time faculty, it was proposed and approved to compensate part-time faculty for their role on the senate and several key committees. While the faculty committee had the ability to engage faculty in the teaching and learning process and shared governance, the proposed senate has the potential to provide more formalized engagement for full-time and part-time faculty.

Recommendation:

It is my honor and privilege to formally and positively recommend the Faculty Senate Constitution to you. Coconino Community College has undertaken and successfully completed numerous initiatives for student success. With a sincere focus for student success, the faculty senate can play a critical role in serving the “heart and purpose of Coconino Community College.”

I would also like to formally acknowledge the hard work of the faculty as well as others across the institution that have undertaken this positive process. The faculty work group engaged in an inclusive vetting process including stakeholders across the institution as well as legal review. The process, in and of itself, has been a success. It is my hope and commitment that the new faculty organization will be effective in meeting the needs of students.