

**Resolution 2012-2. On Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Provide for the Removal of Committee Members Who Are Repeatedly Absent Without Cause.**

The General Faculty enacts that

§ 4-1 of the Faculty Code of University Government is amended by adding a new subsection as follows:

(d) It is the duty of all members to attend committee meetings, save for good cause. If any elected or appointed member is absent for two successive meetings without cause, the secretary of the faculty, upon referral by the committee's chair and acting with the advice and consent of the Faculty Executive Committee, may declare the seat vacant. In the case of elected committees, the vacancy is filled as provided in § 4-3. In the case of appointed committees, the secretary notifies the appointing officer.

**Rationale:**

The Committee on University Government recently noticed a significant gap in the Faculty Code of University Government, to wit, that there exists no provision for removing a member from a faculty committee for cause, specifically in the case where an elected or appointed committee member chooses not to participate and also fails to resign. Happily such cases are rare, but we can imagine circumstances in which the non-participation of a member on a key faculty committee could have serious consequences. Hence it seems prudent to add language to the Code that would allow the secretary of the faculty to deal with such problems, were they to occur.

The proposed amendment is modeled on language already in the Code, which comes into play if a member of Faculty Council is persistently delinquent. Section 2-6 currently reads: "It is the duty of all members [of Faculty Council] to attend all regular and special meetings of the Council, save for good cause. If any voting member is absent for two successive regular meetings without cause, the Council may declare his or her membership vacant." It has always been the Council's custom that *any* reason for an absence is considered "good cause," so long as it is communicated to the secretary of the faculty or his staff. Removals under this provision have been extremely rare, and we would expect the same to be true under the new language, if it is adopted.

Resolution 2012-2, if passed, would add a new subsection to § 4-1, which deals with the "organizational principles" of faculty committees. This new subsection would mirror the wording of § 2-6 just described, except that the seat would be declared vacant by the secretary of the faculty, "upon referral by the committee's chair and acting with the advice and consent of the Faculty Executive Committee."