MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 24, 2014

TO: Noah Zerbe, Chair
University Senate

FROM: Richard Bruce, Chair
Constitution and Bylaws Committee

RE: Summary Report of Academic Year’s Activities per University Senate Bylaws 10.62

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC) enjoyed a productive year with ten (10) resolutions forwarded to the Senate, summarized below. The largest tasks addressed by Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC) in 2013-2014 were the proposed revision of the University Senate Constitution begun the previous year that manifested as a resolution followed by a vote, creating a resolution and procedures on censure/recall, and reviewing the relationship between the General Faculty Constitution and the University Senate Constitution.

Resolutions Forwarded to the Senate:

1. Resolution to Clarify Term Lengths for the Constitution & Bylaws Committee Members (Resolution #03-13/14-CBC). This resolution 1) codified the chair of the committee as a member, 2) reconciled the discrepancy with the chair’s one-year term and committee members’ two-year terms, and 3) brought the student’s term in line with other committees.

2. Resolution to Fill Vacant Seats in Special Elections (Resolution #04-13/14-CBC). In response to the practice of performing multiple elections (for an election to temporarily fill a seat until a regular election) and with the support of the Appointments & Elections Committee (AEC), this resolution allowed for a special election to finish the term.

3. Resolution to Establish Voting Procedure on the Constitution of the University Senate of HSU for Spring 2014 (Resolution #20-13/14-CBC). In consultation with the AEC and individuals, the CBC established the voting procedures for ratification of the first revision to the University Senate Constitution.

4. Resolution on Forwarding the Proposed Revision of the Constitution of the University Senate of HSU (Resolution #21-13/14-CBC). The culmination of nearly two years of reviewing the University Senate Constitution for redundancies and clarity by the CBC, the Senate and two postings for public comment, this resolution allowed for a vote on the revision under the procedures in Resolution #20-13/14-CBC.

5. Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the University Senate of HSU to Authorize Recall of Elected Senators (Resolution #22-13/14-CBC). This resolution, which was part of a group of
related resolutions on recall and censure, also followed the ratification procedures in Resolution #20-13/14-CBC. It delegated authority to recall Senators to the Senator’s electorate.

6. Resolution to Establish Recall Procedures in the Bylaws of the University Senate (Resolution #23-13/14-CBC). Once authority for recall was established in the previous resolution (#22-13/14-CBC), this set up procedures for recall.

7. Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the University Senate of HSU to Authorize Censure of Senators (Resolution #24-13/14-CBC). As part of the group of resolutions and once passed by procedures outlined in Resolution #20-13/14-CBC, this authorized the Senate to censure Senators.

8. Resolution to Establish Procedures in the University Senate Bylaws for Censure (Resolution #25-13/14-CBC). Following the previous resolution, this created procedures for censure, which includes due process.

9. Resolution to Establish Procedures in the University Senate Bylaws for Removal from Elected Positions in the Senate (Resolution #30-13/14-CBC). Sturgis states that organizations have an inherent right to remove officers it elects; this set up procedures similar to those for censure.

10. Resolution to Establish Procedures in the University Senate Bylaws for Expulsion (Resolution #31-13/14-CBC). This resolution was withdrawn as the electorate is the only body that can remove its representatives.

In its deliberations on separating the GF President from the University Senate Chair, the CBC has created drafts of the GF Constitution and the Senate Constitution that, after advice from Senate Executive Committee, are held for a future discussion.

As chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, I’d like to officially thank the committee members for their intriguing philosophical discussions on power, traditions, history, and visioning: Jeff Abell, Ken Fulgham, Denise Ruiz, Jeremy Shellhase, and Steve Tillinghast. Their attention, interest and collegiality allowed for discussions on difficult subjects this year.

Finally, most of our progress would have been severely impeded or completely misdirected without the guidance and editing of Merry Phillips.