

January 24, 2014

To: Faculty Senate

From: Craig Parks, Chair, Committee on Committees

Re: Potential restructuring of Senate committees

Last semester the Senate asked the Committee on Committees (CoC) to look at the structure of the Budget, Graduate Studies, and Research and Arts committees to determine if they are adequate and appropriate given the current charges of those committees. This memo reports on CoC findings in regard to the **Research and Arts Committee**.

The Research and Arts Committee (R&A) consists of 11 faculty members, with at least one from each college and at least two being members of the Senate; two graduate students; and a representative of the Vice-President for Research as an ex officio member. The CoC studied the history of R&A to determine how membership was set at 11 faculty but could not find the answer. It was also unclear why this committee, alone among the five major Senate committees, requires that some members be senators. The committee talked with Laura Lavine, past and current co-chair of R&A, and examined the typical workload of R&A. The CoC acknowledged that the workload is often considerable, but does not consider it to exceed that of Academic Affairs. The CoC also noticed that the committee charge does not consider the Honors College, and opens the possibility that Honors will request voting membership on R&A. As with Graduate Studies, it seems unlikely that Honors would seek to be involved with R&A, but the CoC nonetheless feels that this detail should be attended to. The CoC thus recommends that **membership of Research and Arts be changed to one representative per college, excluding the Honors College.**