

## **Petition 2015-10**

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

SUGGESTED TITLE: **Membership of the University Senate**

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: *Discipline ¶¶* 1414.2

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATION: None

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: No

AMEND Paragraph 1414.2 by DELETING the entire section and ADDING the following new paragraph in its place:

1414.2 The senate shall be composed of twenty-five voting members who, at the time of their election, shall be members of the United Methodist Church and who, by reason of professional background or education, are qualified for the work of evaluating educational institutions. Election is for the quadrennium, except in cases where conflict of interest arises as a result of change in employment. Of the twenty-five members, nine shall be nominated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, eight shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops, and eight shall be nominated by the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church. At the same daily session at which the above nominations are announced, additional nominations may be made from the floor but at no other time. The members shall be elected by the General Conference and by majority vote, with any replacement members made necessary by death or resignation being elected by the Council of Bishops from the remaining nominees. Of the members nominated by each group, and of the total elected by the General Conference, no more than one-third shall be professionally affiliated with a United Methodist-related educational institution. Care should be taken that women, racial and ethnic persons, and representatives from the United Methodist-related Black colleges and graduate theological seminaries are members of the Senate. The general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the associate general secretaries of the Divisions of Higher

Education and Ordained Ministry of that board shall serve as ex officio members of the senate, with voice but without vote. There shall be one staff representative on the senate from the General Board of Global Ministries, with voice but without vote, named by the general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries. The senate, at its originating meeting each quadrennium, shall elect as its president a member not professionally affiliated with a United Methodist-related educational institution

### **Rationale**

Whereas: As currently composed, the University Senate has a majority of its voting members being chief executives of United Methodist-related educational institutions. Since one of the purposes of the University Senate is to review educational institutions, this represents an institutionally sanctioned conflict of interest, reducing the Senate's ability to objectively evaluate United Methodist-related educational institutions.

And

Whereas it is in the best interest of our Annual Conference to have as many quality, diverse theological schools in our area approved by the University Senate as possible,

Therefore

The Indiana Annual Conference instructs our Conference Secretary to submit the following Petition to Gary M. Graves, Petitions Secretary of the 2016 United Methodist General Conference, amending Paragraph 1414.2 of the Book of Discipline.

Date: February 27, 2015

Submitted to the 2015 Indiana Annual Conference Session

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