TO: University Senate

FROM: John E. Davidson, Chair
       Senate Rules Committee

DATE: 2/7/08

RE: Proposal to amend procedures and language regarding election of
    senate committee chairs

WHEREAS, recent changes have been enacted to make the committee structure more
efficient, in part by enabling more continuity in committee leadership and membership; and

WHEREAS, the senate now conducts significant business in the summer quarter, which makes the current rule regarding pro tem leadership inefficient; and

WHEREAS, autumn elections are often delayed, creating a backlog that can adversely affect the entire committee structure for the entire year; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Cabinet, which comprises university senate committee chairs, unanimously favored a change to the current structure addressing these issues at its meeting of 12-05-07; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Rules Committee at its meeting on 01-17-2008 deemed the proposed changes to be consistent with the spirit of the rules;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate approves the proposed changes to Faculty Rules 3335-5-38 and 3335-5-46, and respectfully requests the concurrence of the Board of Trustees, said proposal to be effective upon approval by the Board of Trustees.

3335-5-38 Terms of office
   
   (B) Faculty members shall serve three-year terms, with one third being elected each year; they shall be ineligible for one year for reelection; unless otherwise noted below, faculty-senator elections will be completed before the end of the winter quarter annually.

3335-5-46 Senate committee operating procedures

...
(A) (5) Terms of service

Unless otherwise specified by the rules, terms of service of senate committee members begin and end on the first day of autumn quarter; incoming members may attend meetings as non-voting members as soon as they are appointed.

... 

(C) Organization

Committee chairs. Except where otherwise specified by the rules, in the spring each committee shall elect a chair pro tem in the spring from its continuing membership and a chair at its first meeting in the autumn quarter, whose term shall begin the subsequent summer quarter; where it is deemed useful, committees may elect a vice-chair in the autumn to assist the current chair.