

*Senate Executive Committee March 20, 2017*

*Approved: Ruth Watkins, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs:*



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### **Memorandum**

**To:** Ruth Watkins, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

**From:** Amy Wildermuth, Associate Vice President for Faculty

**Date:** February 24, 2017

**Subject:** Proposal to revise University Rule 6-310 (IDTP) to change membership of UITP Committee.

**Introduction:**

This is a proposal to change the membership structure of the University Interdisciplinary Teaching Programs Faculty Appointments Advisory Committee (“UITP Committee”)—by revising the description of the committee within Rule 6-310 (IDTP).

The Qualified Interdisciplinary Teaching Program concept was initially established through the enactment of Rule 6-310 (IDTP) in 2010. Under the Rule, academic teaching units which are interdisciplinary such that they do not appropriately fit into a traditional academic department structure, and which otherwise meet the qualifying criteria, are designated as QIDT Programs and authorized to become the appointing unit for Lecturer faculty positions. The Rule establishes a rigorous set of requirements, sets up a structure of internal committees within each such Program, and establishes the University-level UITP Committee as a body to review and oversee implementation of the rigorous requirements for those Programs.

The set of Teaching Programs encompassed in this concept has changed over time. There were originally five. Two of the original five remain active and making important contributions to the University currently --- Honors, and the LEAP Program. Three of the original five units subsequently developed to the point that they were approved to be restructured as academic departments/divisions, including the University Writing Program (made an academic department in the College of Humanities in 2014-2015), and then the Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies

Programs (reconfigured as academic divisions of the new School for Cultural and Social Transformation in 2016-2017). And two other units have by revising of Rule 6-310 been newly included as part of the QIDTP system as of 2014-2015--- The Entertainment Arts and Engineering Program, and the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program.

The UITP Committee has been steadily carrying out its important functions for the QIDTP system since 2010. However, with experience it has become evident that an adjustment of the membership structure would improve the effectiveness of the Committee. As originally framed (and specified in the existing version of Rule 6-310), the Committee has had a total of nine faculty members--- all nine being tenure-line faculty. Two have been tenure-line faculty with a close affiliation with one of the QIDTP Programs, which resulted in them having to be recused from deliberations about that Program, and seven have been tenure-line faculty not closely affiliated with any of the QIDTP Programs. The Rule has had no provision for including any career-line faculty members on the Committee.

In the years since the 2010 enactment of the original Rule and establishment of the Committee, the University has implemented many significant changes for integrating career-line faculty members into shared-governance roles, including elected positions in the Academic Senate and the system of Senate standing committees, and appointed positions in other University-level committees. A Senate Task Force on career-line faculty has delivered to the Senate a major report with findings and recommendations for further integrating career-line faculty into roles in college councils and college-level committees, and department-level committees.

After exploring various options for populating this committee and considering how career-line faculty members are reviewed in other units, we believe it is appropriate to integrate career-line members into service on the UITP Committee. This proposal is to continue with a total of *nine* faculty members of the Committee, six tenure-line members and three career-line members. These newly added career-line members would *not* be directly affiliated with any of the QIDTP Programs that the Committee oversees and therefore would not have to be recused from Committee deliberations about candidates from those Programs.

The Career-line members are expected to bring important perspectives and insights and otherwise make valuable contributions to the work of the Committee. With their added contributions, the Committee will continue with its original primary functions of (i) considering and making recommendations regarding individual appointments/ reappointments/ promotions of Lecturer faculty in the Programs, and (ii) approving the contents of written “Statements” which establish the criteria, standards, and procedures by which the Lecturer faculty members are appointed/ reappointed/ promoted in each of the Programs (doing so with guidance from the Senate Faculty Review Standards Committee).

Other minor clarifying revisions are proposed for the Rule and all changes are marked clearly on the attached version of the Rule.

This proposal has been discussed with current members of the UITP Committee. With your approval, it will be submitted to the Academic Senate Executive Committee for action by the Senate.

Further information about the history of the QIDTP system and work of the Committee may be seen in these documents:

[http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/revisions\\_6/Leg%20History%20Rev%2021-%20Policy%206303%20Policy%206-310%20and%20Rule%206-310.pdf](http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/revisions_6/Leg%20History%20Rev%2021-%20Policy%206303%20Policy%206-310%20and%20Rule%206-310.pdf)

[http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/appendices\\_6/6-310.R1\\_3-09-10\\_legislativehistory.pdf](http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/appendices_6/6-310.R1_3-09-10_legislativehistory.pdf)

[http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/appendices\\_6/Legis%20History%20Rule%206-310Rev1.pdf](http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/appendices_6/Legis%20History%20Rule%206-310Rev1.pdf)

For additional information about the Committee and this proposal, please contact my office: Amy Wildermuth, AVP for Faculty (amy.wildermuth@utah.edu, 801-581-8763).