1. **Action Requested:** *(Charge file: 120831 Senate Faculty Voting Policy charge)*

   *I request a clarification of this by Faculty Senate with reference to the following: does this definition prevent academic departments from limiting who can vote on departmental matters? In other words, does the designation of “voting member” apply only to university-wide matters or does it also mandate that subsets of the university follow this designation?*

2. **Current Policy:**

   The University Handbook contains the following definitions:

   Section 1. Definition of Faculty
   
   All members of the instructional staff, the administrative officers, and professional librarians constitute the faculty of the University of Southern Indiana.

   Section 2. Voting Members
   
   All members of the faculty holding academic rank, except those on temporary or part-time assignment, constitute the voting members of the faculty.

   Section 3. Associate Members
   
   All members of the faculty not included in Section 2 above are associate members of the faculty, with all membership privileges except that of voting. One year temporary and special part-time faculty are associate members of the faculty.

3. **Senate Action:**

   Senate was charged with clarifying the definition of voting faculty as defined in the Faculty Handbook. Specifically, does the handbook definition of voting faculty apply to departmental votes. Senators discussed the possibility that there are departmental-level issues which effect tenured and tenure-track faculty and instructor/contract faculty differently. The core question is who has input into department decisions, and would it be appropriate for departments to determine their own procedures? It was noted that perhaps the most important context for faculty ballots is the Curriculum Committee requirement that a majority of faculty approve curriculum proposals.

   At the September 21, 2012 meeting a motion to send this charge to the Faculty Affairs Committee for review was made. The motion was passed with one abstention.

4. **Senate Recommendation:** *(Action approved January 11, 2013: Senate Jan 11 2013 Minutes)*

   Senate voted to forward the Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee’s recommendation pertaining to Faculty Voting Policy to the provost’s office.
The Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee views the definition of “Voting Members” of the faculty, as stated in the University Handbook, to apply to University matters. It is the position of the Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee that the definition of voting members, as it applies to departmental matters, resides with the department. Given the significant variability in departmental size and constitution, individual departments may use discretion in determining who has voting rights in exclusive departmental matters.