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UNIVERSITY SENATE

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February 4, 2009

TO: Sabrina Baron
Chair, Senate Committee on Elections, Representation, and Governance

FROM: Kenneth G. Holum 
Chair, University Senate

SUBJECT: Senate Policy on Eligibility for Election in the Faculty Constituency
(Senate Document 08-09-16)

Section 3.2.a(1) of the Senate Plan of Organization defines as eligible for election in one of the three faculty constituencies “those who hold a full-time tenured or tenure-track appointment at the rank of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor or a rank recognized by the University as equivalent to these.” In an email to me, Steve Fetter, Dean of the School of Public Policy, has pointed out that the School has three (soon to be four) distinguished professors of the practice who we consider in every way (except tenure decisions) to be senior members of our faculty, equivalent to full professors.” He has inquired whether the School’s faculty would be permitted to elect one of these as its representative in the Senate.

Obviously, we need to determine how the Plan of Organization is to be interpreted on this point, with reference to Professors of the Practice generally in the University. I would therefore be very grateful if you would raise the Dean’s question with your committee and advise me how I should respond to Dean Fetter. It would be useful to invite Associate Provost Ellin Scholnick to join in the discussion, because she is exceptionally well-versed in faculty appointments and ranks, and to invite Marvin Breslow also, as the Senate’s Parliamentarian. Since elections are now in progress, I would appreciate a response as soon as possible, perhaps after your meeting of February 19.

KGH/rm