

## **A RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE (02/2)**

**WHEREAS, the President has informed the Executive Committee that he intends to create a new office of Provost. Based on the information provided, the Executive Committee understands that the contemplated position of Provost would divide the responsibilities of the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, assuming control of academic matters with respect to the Law School, the Medical School, and the School of Public Health and Health Services; and**

**WHEREAS, the President has requested, through the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, faculty response to the administration's proposed changes to the structure of the administration and specifically those positions with responsibility for and oversight over academic units; and**

**WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has reviewed and discussed with colleagues on the Faculty Senate and in their respective schools the information provided by the President; and**

**WHEREAS, with respect to those aspects of the proposed restructuring applicable to the academic units the Faculty Senate is persuaded that:**

- 1. A convincing case for the establishment of the position of University Provost with academic control over three of the schools has not been made.**
- 2. The practical removal of three of the schools from the current jurisdiction of the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs would be detrimental, dividing the schools of the University academically and strategically.**
- 3. The proposed new administrative structure, by dividing academic oversight between two senior officials, would severely hinder the implementation of the Strategic Plan, supported by the Board of Trustees, the administration and the faculty, whose execution requires full and unified participation of all schools.**
- 4. The appointment of a Provost as described to the Executive Committee would not be preceded by a search and may be of indefinite duration. Appointment to positions of senior academic leadership without a national as well as a local search is inconsistent with University-mandated policy and customary practices of major research universities with respect to senior academic positions; NOW, THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY THAT**

- 1. The Faculty Senate, unpersuaded by what it has heard so far, believes that the proposed restructuring is not in the best academic interest of the University and strongly urges the administration to reconsider this proposed plan; and**

- 2. The Faculty Senate requests that the administration identify the concerns it believes need to be addressed; and**
- 3. Further, the Faculty Senate urges that no fundamental changes of academic governance, academic budget authority, or significant personnel changes be made without additional study and active involvement of the faculty. Such study should be conducted with the understanding that, consistent with academic practice, the filling of a new position with major academic responsibilities requires a national and local search; and**
- 4. Consistent with its role, as defined by the Faculty Code and the Faculty Organization Plan, the Faculty Senate is prepared to work with the administration, through a specially appointed committee, in determining avenues for the strengthening of the academic governance structure in order to achieve the University's academic goals as defined in the Strategic Plan for Academic Excellence.**

**Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate  
September 11, 2002**

**Adopted September 13, 2002**