IUPUI is highly regarded because of its robust shared governance system. Faculty governance is at its best when faculty of all ranks participate. However, that is not currently the case at IUPUI since The Constitution of the IUPUI Faculty defines the voting faculty as “All tenured and tenure-track faculty members.” However, non-tenure track faculty can be elected to serve as representatives of their units and as elected members of the IUPUI Faculty Council Executive Committee. Moreover, certain units and departments have opted to include non-tenure track faculty as voting members within their faculty governance systems.

IUPUI faculty who hold non-tenure track appointments are highly valued because they make essential contributions to the success of our students through their teaching, advising, and pedagogy. Moreover, they contribute significantly to Indiana and beyond through their scholarly activities related to teaching and learning. Likewise, non-tenure track faculty in research-oriented positions contribute significantly to IUPUI’s stature as a research university. It is significant to note that approximately 40% of the full-time faculty at IUPUI are non-tenure track. Given their sheer number and the depth and breadth of their contributions, our non-tenure track faculty are indeed an integral part of the IUPUI faculty. They should be afforded a professional standing within the IUPUI community that is in keeping with their responsibilities and expertise.

Therefore, the IFC should alter The Constitution of the IUPUI Faculty such that the non-tenure track faculty become voting members of the faculty with voting rights and privileges at the campus, school, and department levels equal to those of faculty in the tenured/tenure track category with the exception of voting on promotion and tenure of tenure track faculty. In addition, these voting privileges must be structured such that the “60-40 rule” of ACA-18 is followed. The IFC Executive Committee, IFC Faculty Affairs Committee, and the Office of Academic Affairs will collaborate in the development of a review mechanism to assure that the “60-40 rule” is observed at campus, school, and department levels.

These changes in voting rights will apply only to full time faculty whose salary is paid directly by Indiana University and not another entity such IU Health. Moreover, these changes in voting rights will pertain to the following series of titles as listed in IU Policy ACA-14 (Classification of Academic Appointments): Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Teaching Professor; Professor of Practice; Assistant Clinical Professor, Associate Clinical Professor, and Clinical Professor; Assistant Scientist, Associate Scientist, and Senior Scientist; and Assistant Scholar, Associate Scholar, and Senior Scholar.

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1 At present, The Constitution of the IUPUI Faculty defines the faculty as “Individuals serving full-time who hold instructor (including lecturer) or professorial (including clinical and research) rank, as well as librarians of comparable rank.” and the voting faculty as “All tenured and tenure-track faculty members.” However, “voting privileges can be granted to full-time non-tenure-track faculty members, but these privileges must be made explicit in this Constitution or its Bylaws.” In this regard, IU Policy ACA-18 (Regulation of Clinical and Lecturer Appointments) states that voting privileges of non-tenure track faculty “must be structured in a way that reserves at least 60% of voting weight to tenure track faculty.” Therefore, it is possible to grant voting privileges to the non-tenure track faculty by amending The Constitution of the IUPUI Faculty with the proviso that the “60/40 rule” is followed.