The Faculty Constitution in the Faculty Handbook is the policy that defines and governs the membership and responsibilities of the University Faculty including shared governance procedures and composition of shared governance organizations (Faculty Senate, AF&T Committee, and Committee on Governance). Furthermore, the Constitution defines the organization of College and Departments including membership, procedures, and meetings. The Constitution defines the titles, responsibilities, and duties of the upper Administration. Finally, the Constitution provides for adoption and amendments thereof. The constitution was last amended 29 years ago. Since that time titles and organizational details have changed. For example, in the early 1990s the position and title of Provost was added to the Administration.

One of the responsibilities of the Faculty Committee on Governance (COG) is to oversee the administration of the Constitution in the Faculty Handbook as well as amending the constitution when necessary. Last year the COG began the process of amending the Faculty Constitution to reflect changes that have accumulated over the past 29 years. As provided for in the Constitution:

*Article 4, Sec. 2 Amendments: This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those Voting Faculty members responding to a mail ballot after presentation twice to the Faculty for debate in meetings at least four weeks apart and subsequent ratification by the Regents.*

The COG will be submitting proposed amendments to the Faculty Constitution for consideration by the Voting Faculty. These amendments have been written in consultation with the Faculty Senate, administration, and the Chair of Regent’s Academic, Student Affairs and Research Committee. The electronic document has current wording of the Faculty Constitution and the proposed changes. Two informational General Faculty meetings are scheduled for presentation and discussion of the amendments before it is submitted to you for a vote in early December. The first General Faculty meeting will be held on the North Campus, October 22nd in Domenici Center Auditorium, room 1220. The second will be held Main Campus, November 21st in Centennial Engineering Center, room 1041. Meeting information including the Faculty Constitution amendments, agenda, and updates will be provided as they become available at facgov.unm.edu/specialmtg.