Academic Senate Committee Release

The Motion
To adopt the following changes to section 1.4.3.6 of the Faculty Handbook in order to grant a one-year release from standing committee duty to faculty completing a full term on Academic Senate.

The Rationale
In 2010, the Faculty voted to change the composition of Academic Senate, a change that was made permanent in a vote the following year. Prior to this, all department chairs had served on senate, with the idea that their attendance at the weekly senate meetings was one of the reasons they received an annual course release. In the current senate, members of the committee may not be department chairs, and with the work of the committee falling on fewer people the workload for any individual senator has risen accordingly. Given that Academic Senate is the committee responsible for stewarding our academic program and given that the amount of work on this committee is becoming comparable to that of Faculty Council and the Faculty Personnel Committee, it seems appropriate that outgoing senators should receive the same one-year exemption from standing committee work granted to people finishing terms on these other two committees.

Current Handbook Language

1.4.3.6 Committee Release
a) Purpose: Release from all committee responsibilities is available to faculty who have had exceptionally heavy committee loads or who have an unusual opportunity for professional development. The purpose is to provide faculty with the opportunity to recover from heavy committee work and to address other areas of development which may have suffered as a result of such work.
b) Eligibility:
   1) Automatic: Faculty members completing full terms on either the Faculty Council or the Faculty Personnel committees are automatically granted a one-year release from committee work.
   2) By Application: Faculty can apply to the Professional Development Committee for a one-year release from committee work five years after any previous release.
c) Procedures:
   1) Applications should be submitted to the Provost before December 15 for committee release the following academic year.
   2) All requests must be approved by the Professional Development Committee. Applicants will be notified of decisions before March 1.
   3) If the number of applications exceeds the allotment for a given year, a committee release shall be awarded based upon the amount and concentration of institutional service since the last release.
4) If a faculty member is serving a multi-year term on a critical committee, the Professional Development Committee may recommend that the release be postponed for a year.

5) Neither committee release nor load consideration is extended to assignments such as course overloads or Academic Senate for which monetary or course load reduction compensation is already provided.

Proposed New Handbook Language (additions in bold, deletions struck through)

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b) Eligibility:

1) Automatic: Faculty members completing full terms on either the Academic Senate, Faculty Council or the Faculty Personnel Committees are automatically granted a one-year release from committee work.

2) By Application: Faculty can apply to the Professional Development Committee for a one-year release from committee work five years after any previous release.

c) Application Procedures:

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