Class A legislation concerning conflict of interest:

Section 24-50 Conflict of Interest Regarding Appointment, Employment, and Academic Decisions

A conflict of interest exists when a person participating in a decision has a substantial connection or interest related to individual(s) affected by the decision that might bias or otherwise threaten the integrity of the decision process or that might be perceived by a reasonable person as biasing or threatening such decisions. This includes familial, romantic, or sexual relationships and financial conflicts of interest. This may also include some professional relationships. No list of rules can provide direction for all the varying circumstances that may arise; good judgement of individuals is essential.

The procedures set forth in this chapter shall apply in all cases, except that no faculty member, department chair, dean or other administrative officer shall vote, make recommendations, or in any other way participate in the decision of any matter which may directly affect the employment, appointment, tenure, promotion, salary, or other status or interest of such person's parent, child, spouse, household member, sibling, or in-law a faculty or staff member with whom he or she has a conflict of interest. [See also Executive Order No. 32.]

In addition, no faculty member, department chair, dean or other administrative officer shall vote, make recommendations, or in any other way participate in the decision of any matter which may directly affect the employment, promotion, academic status or evaluation of a student with whom he or she has a conflict of interest.

RATIONALE: This section is updated to clarify policy on conflict of interest. The first paragraph is added to define conflict of interest. The second paragraph is modified from existing language to add salary as a decision that may be affected by conflicts of interest.

The third paragraph is added to the Faculty Code, based on Class C legislation passed by the Senate in 1992. (The Class C resolution had been transferred from the University Handbook into the electronic Faculty Code and Governance as a footnote in Section 24-33 (A Statement of Principle: Academic Freedom and Responsibility). The content was judged to be a better fit in this section, 24-50, on Conflict of Interest. Because the footnote in 24-33 was not the result of Class A legislation, it is not shown here as existing Code language. It remains on the Senate website as previously approved Class C legislation.

If Class A legislation #136 (merging chapters 24 and 25 of the faculty code and changing the faculty salary policy) is approved, this section (if approved) will be renumbered as Section 24-25.

Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
January 11, 2016

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
January 28, 2016