

DATE: September 7, 2018

TO: Voting Body of the Faculty, East Falls campus

FROM: John Pierce, Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Faculty

RE: Proposal to Vote on the *Bylaws of the Colleges and Schools (9/18/18)*

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**Background:**

Administration and faculty have been engaged in a two-year process to create a new governance framework for the combined University. The integration planning began before the merger was finalized with faculty listening sessions; a 9-month faculty committee process on five key areas of faculty affairs and governance; and faculty input on the committees' recommendations. The administration of the combined University, with input from the Deans of all Colleges and Schools and the University faculty, drafted proposed *Bylaws of the Colleges and Schools*. The *Bylaws* document is a framework for the University, establishes the requirements for governance, and creates a model of shared governance in which University administration and faculty will work together to ensure effective, efficient and responsible governance.

To adopt the proposed *Bylaws of the Colleges and Schools*, each college or academic unit from the two merged institutions is following the amendment procedures described in their legacy governance documents. On the East Falls Campus, we will follow the process for changes to the Philadelphia University *Organization of the Faculty*, which may be changed upon approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Voting Body of the Faculty. A quorum is one-half (1/2) of the Voting Body. The vote will be taken electronically over a ten (10) day period after the September 18, 2018 Faculty Meeting.

Colleagues, please be aware that at least two-thirds (2/3) of those eligible to vote must vote. Further, an abstention is considered a "no" vote.

**Rationale:**

Approval of the proposed *Bylaws of the Colleges and Schools* achieves an important integration milestone for the combined University. It enables the creation of new University-wide Faculty Committees that include representatives from both campuses and new governance frameworks for the new Colleges and Schools in effect on July 1, 2018. It facilitates the creation of other faculty affairs documents including the University *Faculty Handbook* and its College-specific addenda. The University is committed to ensuring that faculty viewpoints are solicited, heard, and considered in good faith in the creation of the *Faculty Handbook*.

**Motion:**

I propose the Voting Body of the East Falls Faculty approve the *Bylaws of the Colleges and Schools*.