Hello, Staff Senate –

Article XVII of the Staff Senate bylaws, appended to the end of this note, describes the processes that must be followed in order amend the bylaws.

Section 1 of Article XVII, titled “Proposals,” indicates two ways by which an amendment may be proposed:

(a) “Amendments may be proposed by a majority of the Staff Senate[.]”

OR

(b) “[U]pon a petition signed by at least ten (10) percent of the Staff and presented to the Staff Senate President (Chair).”

Section 2 of Article XVII, titled “Adoption,” describes the process by which an introduced amendment is democratically vetted:

“Within 14 days after an amendment has been proposed, it shall be posted on the Staff Senate web site to allow time for review and comment from staff. The Staff Senate shall vote on the amendment at the Staff Senate meeting immediately following the review and comment period. Upon approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the Staff Senate, the proposed amendment shall become effective as of the date set forth in the proposal.”

I would like to propose an amendment to the bylaws. As such, at the May 8th Staff Senate meeting I will bring a proposal to the Senate and seek majority support for a change to the bylaws. If the amendment garners the requisite support, the proposed change will be voted on at the June 12th Staff Senate meeting.

The amendment I propose is to increase the number of Staff Senators from 30 members to 40 members. This requires an alteration to Article VII, “Staff Senate Representation.”

I have included my proposed amendment below:
One of the greatest obstacles Staff Senate faces in reaching its goals is not having enough help to carry out the work of the Senate. I believe increasing the number of possible participants will ease the individual time commitment of each Senator. Further, for years in which we have more than 30 willing Senators, it seems foolish to exclude someone willing to volunteer time in order to make our community a better place. Discouraging that sort of willing, selfless effort runs counter to the culture we’re hoping to foment among our UM Family.

As such, please consider these points when I look to you for support of this amendment at the May 8th meeting.

Thank you.

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ARTICLE XVII - AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

SECTION 1 - PROPOSALS: Amendments may be proposed by a majority of the Staff Senate or upon a petition signed by at least ten (10) percent of the Staff and presented to the Staff Senate President (Chair).

SECTION 2 - ADOPTION: Within 14 days after an amendment has been proposed, it shall be posted on the Staff Senate web site to allow time for review and comment from staff. The Staff Senate shall vote on the amendment at the Staff Senate meeting immediately following the review and comment period. Upon approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the Staff Senate, the proposed amendment shall become effective as of the date set forth in the proposal.