

University Civics Program Autonomy Model Provisions

A.1

[The Center, School, or Department] shall be an independent academic unit with the authority to house tenure-track, career-track, and other faculty, who hold their appointments within the [Center, School, or Department]. Faculty appointed to the [Center, School, or Department] shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within any other division of the university. Not fewer than [x] faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under the [Center, School, or Department]. No faculty outside of the [Center, School, or Department] shall have the authority to block faculty hires into the [Center, School, or Department.]

A.2.

The university shall provide adequate and appropriate space for the [Center, School, or Department] as jointly determined by the director and either the president or provost of the university. The university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, costs, expenses, or charges to the unit.

Any appropriated monies allocated for [the Center, School, or Department] shall be used to operate [the Center, School, or Department]. The appropriated monies may not supplant any existing state or federal funding or private or external donations to the existing unit. The appropriated monies and all private and external donations for the unit, including any remaining balances from prior fiscal years, shall be deposited in a separate account, shall be used only for the direct operation of the unit and may not be used for indirect costs of the university.

B.1

The [Center, School, or Department] shall be granted the authority to offer courses and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate programs, and offer degrees. The consent, permission, approval, or endorsement of no other academic unit, such as a school, college, or department, can be required as a condition of the [Center, School or Department], undertaking any sort of public programming, offering a class, or entering a class or course of study (such as a major, minor, or certificate) into the permanent academic catalog, or revising any such class or course of study operated by that unit.

B.2

[Optional: Prohibition on the institution charging a unit excess security fees for public programming based on the content/viewpoint of an invited speaker. See section 1(G) of Goldwater Institute [Campus Free Speech Act](#) model policy]

C.1

No faculty outside of the [Center, School, or Department] other than the President, shall have authority to approve, deny, or modify the terms of employment of appointments of faculty into the [Center, School or Department].

The director shall have the sole and exclusive authority, other than the President, to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff, and to terminate employment of all staff, in accordance with state and federal law. [optional] [After the first three years of the existence of the [Center, School, or Department], faculty recruitment shall be by whatever decision-making procedure the [Center, School, or Department] chooses to employ in its bylaws.]

C.2.

Other than the President, the consent or approval of the provost, deans, or other administration to make or approve faculty hires, other than the director, or propose academic hiring plans, for the [Center, School or Department] shall be limited to ensuring compatibility with the budget of the [Center, School or Department] and state and federal law.

In the event of the dissolution of the [Center, School, or Department], its faculty (and their tenure if any) shall be distributed to their relevant disciplinary unit, at the same rank and compensation. Any subsequent termination of such faculty shall be made consistent with the protocols for termination of the other faculty of those disciplinary units.

D.1

The [Center, School, or Department] shall have independent authority to define its own tenure and promotion criteria and to exclusively make all decisions of probationary review, tenure, and other faculty promotion for positions within the unit, subject to the approval of the President. The [Center, School, or Department] shall have the authority to determine outsider evaluators for tenure and promotion, taking into account an appropriate body of scholarship in establishing criteria for evaluators, rather than [Board of Regents] or other university designations of peer or aspirational peer institutions in establishing criteria for evaluators.

The President shall not delegate authority to review any promotion decision to any other office or administrative body of the university except to ensure submission of an administratively complete file.

The denial by the President of any administratively complete tenure file submitted under this section shall be submitted to the [governing board] for review by the board with any necessary redactions of personally identifying information. The governing board may approve the tenure or promotion of the candidate upon a majority vote.

D.2

[Optional addition to D1: Teaching-based tenure: see Goldwater Institute American Higher Education Restoration Act [Section 1](#)]

E.

The [Center, School or Department] shall be able to offer and independently designate its classes to fulfill the requirements of the [Honors College], including by offering analogous introductory classes or designating other classes with analogous content to fulfil those

requirements, and in designating other appropriate classes as honors-only or honors-fulfilling classes. The [Center, School or Department] shall also have the independent authority to designate its classes to fulfill any general university or college English composition or other similar writing requirements or to fulfill any general education requirements other than those in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or other quantitative fields, or a foreign language. Designations made pursuant to this paragraph shall not require approval of any other academic unit, faculty body, or general education committee.

F.

Director: A vacancy in the office of Director of the [Center, School, or Department] shall be filled with the approval of an advisory board selected from current or former leadership of other schools of civic thought, with final review by the President. For all such vacancies after the first director, this search shall either select a candidate from within the unit or use a job posting written by the [Center, School or Department] and be undertaken by an internally elected committee of the [Center, School or Department] and then the full unit, with approval of said advisory board and the President. Such appointment shall prioritize administrative capability and institutional commitment to teaching over research and may be made at either the associate or full professor level.

G.

The director of the [Center, School, or Department] shall submit an annual report to the board of [trustees/regents] and [legislature/legislative committees]. The report shall provide a full account of the [Center, School, or Department's] achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of this academic unit.

The chairpersons of the senate education committee and the house of representatives education committee may request the director of the [Center, School, or Department] to appear before the committees to report on the unit's annual achievements.

H.

Any faculty member of an institution of higher education [Optional: appointed in the Center, School, or Department] [Optional: or the state attorney general, or the county attorney] may bring an action against that institution of higher education if it violates this section. If the claimant shows that the institution of higher education violated this section, the claimant is entitled to injunctive relief.

I. [Optional]

Robust American constitutional principles and institutions general education requirement; see for example, [Section II](#) of the Goldwater Institute Freedom from Indoctrination Act

J. [Optional]

The [Center, School, or Department] shall prioritize teaching over research in setting policies, unit goals, and making tenure and promotion decisions, with teaching understood as intense,

honors-level teaching akin to a liberal arts college and/or basic civics instruction, especially in principles of American constitutionalism, to the university community. The unit shall also, in considering promotion, tenure, and merit assessments, reward service to the broader community, such as undertaking training for the state's K-12 teachers.

K. [Optional]

Beginning [date], and by each [date] thereafter, the University of [X] must report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the progress toward establishing the [Center, School, or Department] as a permanent college at the university. The report must include a timeline for establishing the college, enrollment and educational outcomes and future goals for enrollment and educational outcomes, current financial progress and future financial needs, and any recommendation for changes in general law.