

# Senate Bylaw Proposals

November 24, 2014

## ARTICLE IV Members

### Section 1

Voting Membership of the body shall consist of members including: one dean from each college in the University (as well as the Dean of Learning Resources) and one senator from each academic department in the University with a second senator from departments with more than 10 full-time faculty members. Academic departments are defined in this context to include all undergraduate departments in the colleges and to include graduate schools separately from the undergraduate departments of their respective colleges.

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## **Section 2**

A Faculty Senate Vice President shall be elected annually by a vote of the University Faculty from a listing of the senators. The annual vote will occur during the spring semester for the following academic year. Any candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall become the Faculty Senate Vice President. If after the first round of voting is conducted, there is no majority winner, the top five candidates (and ties) will move forward to a run-off vote in which the candidate receiving the most number of votes shall become the Faculty Senate Vice President. The Faculty Senate Vice President becomes the Faculty Senate President during the consecutive academic year.

## **Section 2**

A Faculty Senate Vice President shall be elected annually by a vote **in the spring** of the University Faculty **(defined hereinafter as all full-time regular faculty)** from a listing **of the senators of all returning and newly elected senators who will be serving for the following academic year.** Any candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall become the Faculty Senate Vice President. If after the first round of voting is conducted, there is no majority winner, the top five candidates (and ties) will move forward to a run-off vote in which the candidate receiving the most number of votes shall become the Faculty Senate Vice President. The Faculty Senate Vice President becomes the Faculty Senate President during the **consecutive academic year next academic year. The academic year is defined as August 1-July 31.**

### Section 3

Each academic department shall elect one senator to the Faculty Senate, unless the academic department consists of more than ten (10) full-time faculty members. Any academic department with more than ten full-time faculty members shall elect two senators. Each academic department shall elect alternates as voting members in the Faculty Senate should the primary senator(s) be unable to attend Faculty Senate meetings. In addition, each of the deans shall appoint an alternate (subject to the general acknowledged approval of the Senate) who will represent the dean as a voting member in the Faculty Senate should the dean be unable to attend Faculty Senate meetings.

Each elected senator shall be elected to a one or two-year term as determined by the appropriate academic department with a maximum term limit of four years before relinquishing the seat for a minimum of two years. If the University Faculty elects a senator as Faculty Senate Vice President for their fourth year, the term limitations do not apply during the fifth year and the senator may serve a fifth year as a senator and as Faculty Senate President. Then the senator must sit out for two years after service as President before being re-elected as a senator or Faculty Senate Vice President.

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**Senators and alternates must be fulltime, regular faculty.**

Each elected senator shall be elected to a ~~one or~~ two-year term as determined by the appropriate academic department with a maximum term limit of four years before relinquishing the seat for a minimum of two years. If the University Faculty elects a senator as Faculty Senate Vice President for their fourth year, the term limitations do not apply during the fifth year and the senator may serve a fifth year as a senator and as Faculty Senate President. Then the senator must sit out for two years after service as President before being re-elected as a senator or Faculty Senate Vice President.

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**ARTICLE VI**  
**Responsibilities**

**Section 3**

The Faculty Senate Vice President shall maintain records and minutes of all Faculty Senate meetings. Also, the Faculty Senate Vice President shall maintain a listing of all recommendations approved by the Faculty Senate.

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## ARTICLE VII Meetings

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Times reserved for the meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be determined and announced at the beginning of each fall and spring semester in accordance with the current University calendar.

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Times reserved for the meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be determined and announced at the beginning of each fall and spring semester in accordance with the current University calendar. **Except in cases of emergency, meetings will be held as regularly scheduled (during the fall and spring semesters). All meetings (regularly scheduled or emergency meetings) may be conducted through an in-person format or electronic format. Should there be a need for emergency meetings to be conducted during the summer, participation by the Senators and the faculty-at-large shall be done on a voluntary basis. However, it should be noted that Faculty Senate and faculty-at-large participation in university affairs and decisions is critical. In that regard, both the Senators and the faculty-at-large should demonstrate a strong commitment to serve and engage, even though the participation is voluntary.**

## Section 2

Emergency meetings shall require a written notice delivered to the University Faculty at least 24 hours in advance.

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**Deleted and included in a previous section.**

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## Section 4

The presence of a simple majority of voting members of the Senate shall constitute a quorum. Any proposal (formal, informal, procedural, or a proposed amendment to the bylaws) to be voted on by the Faculty Senate shall require the presence of a quorum. Discussion of proposals shall be allowed in the Senate meeting on the date on which the vote is scheduled. Should the discussion be prolonged, the Senate may move to vote electronically, and said vote shall be completed within seven (7) days. In the case of an electronic vote of the Senate, the participation of a simple majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum, and these members shall be considered "present" for meeting purposes.

## Section 3 (changing the paragraph # and content below)

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## Section 5

Every formal proposal (including proposed amendments to the bylaws) brought to the Faculty Senate must be considered for a minimum of one month prior to voting to allow time for discussion and comment by faculty members. Informal or procedural proposals considered by the Senate are exempt from this rule and can be brought forward for an immediate vote of the Senate during the meeting in which the informal or procedural proposal is brought.

## Section 4 (only changing the paragraph #)

Every formal proposal (including proposed amendments to the bylaws) brought to the Faculty Senate must be considered for a minimum of one month prior to voting to allow time for discussion and comment by faculty members. Informal or procedural proposals considered by the Senate are exempt from this rule and can be brought forward for an immediate vote of the Senate during the meeting in which the informal or procedural proposal is brought.

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## Section 6

Formal proposals require an affirmative vote from two thirds of the faculty senators present to become recommendations. All voting on formal proposals (including voting on proposed amendments to the bylaws) must be anonymous, preferably electronic.

Any formal proposals receiving affirmative votes from less than two thirds of the faculty senators present shall be returned to the body submitting the proposal.

Every recommendation (including proposed amendments to the bylaws) passed by the Faculty Senate shall, within two weeks, be presented electronically to the University Faculty for vote.

Informal or procedural proposals considered by the Faculty Senate are exempt from these rules and can be passed with a simple majority of the senators present at the vote.

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**ARTICLE IX**  
**Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Faculty Senate in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws and any other special rules of order this body may adopt.

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**In order to help facilitate Faculty Senate governance, a Parliamentary Committee shall be appointed and shall serve at the pleasure of the Senate. This committee shall be comprised of three past Faculty Senate Presidents and shall have the authority to make procedural rulings on parliamentary issues**