

Change #12, Section XVIII, p. 155-58 of the 2010-2011 Handbook

CHANGES TO FACULTY SENATE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

1. Rationale and Summary of Changes: In academic year 2010-2011, the ad hoc Committee on Committees sought to update and possibly streamline the language in the University Handbook on Standing Committees and the Faculty Senate. Several updates and changes will require altering the Faculty Senate Constitution and By-laws.

We provide here a summary of changes and rationale for each change:

(1) Section c. Membership, subsection 2

(a) Update language to reflect that senators are now elected by college, no longer by area.

(b) Removal of subsubsection 2.(a) – procedure to petition to change areas is no longer needed.

(2) Section c. Membership, subsection 4

(a) Current language states that we should be electing 7 or 8 senators each year. We are currently electing 6 or 9.

(b) Therefore, addition of a subsubsection that will grant the Senate the power to resolve such a problem by designating special one-year terms.

(3) Section c. Membership, subsection 5

(a) This subsection addresses vacancies on the Senate, but does not provide language for how long the replacement will serve. My guess is that we fell off the 7/8 election cycle because vacancies were replaced by senators with two year terms, not one year terms.

(b) Therefore, add language stating that the replacement shall serve the remainder of the term of the departing senator, along with language stating that if a the replacement serves one year or less, then that term shall not count to the two consecutive term limit.

(4) Section g. Relationship to General Faculty Committees

(a) Current language states that the Senate will elect at-large members to all committees. Currently, a senator is appointed to a committee only if there is not a senator already serving on the committee.

(b) Rewrite the language that the Senate will elect a member to any general faculty committee on which a senator is not already a member.

(5) Section k. Instructional Faculty Committees and the Faculty Senate, subsection 4, subsubsection b

(a) Current language states that all standing committees are required to furnish minutes and agendas to the Senate, with the exception of Faculty Grievance. This is simply not happening, and not necessary.

(b) Alter the language that gives the Senate the right to request such information when necessary.

(6) Section k. Instructional Faculty Committees and the Faculty Senate, subsection 4, subsubsection c

(a) Typo: “. . . submit a an electronic of the resolution . . .”

(b) Correction “. . . submit an electronic copy of the resolution . . .”

Proposed changes:

(1) Section c. Membership, subsection 2

The Faculty Senate shall consist of members from three academic areas of the university: The College of Arts and Humanities (English, Fine Art and Art History, History Music, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Philosophy and Religious Studies, and Theater and Dance); College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science, Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science & Engineering, Psychology); College of Social Sciences (Communication Studies; Government; Leadership and American Studies; Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work; Accounting, Finance and Economics; and Management and Marketing).

Membership shall consist of five at-large members from each college. Members shall be nominated and elected by the faculty of their respective ~~academic areas~~ **colleges**. All full-time instructional faculty members are eligible to vote for Senate members. Of the five senators from each college, four must be from different departments. At least four of the five members from each college must be tenured.

a) ~~Any department that wishes to change its 'area' can petition the Faculty Senate, in writing (electronic submission), providing a rationale for such change. The petition must be submitted no later than the end of the 4th week of the fall semester preceding the effective date of the proposed change. After receipt of the request for change, the Faculty Senate will hold a two week comment period, during which the responses from other departments in both affected 'areas'~~

~~will be solicited. The Senate will then vote at its next meeting on the request. If approved, the change will be submitted to the fall meeting of the General Faculty for a vote.~~

(2) Section c. subsection 4

Elections shall be held each spring by March 31. Seven members shall be elected in odd-numbered years and eight in even-numbered years, the respective terms for the initial election to be determined by lot. The President of the Faculty Senate notifies the voting body of the election and appoints a Senator to conduct the election. A quorum (51) participate in the balloting in order for the election to be official. Balloting may be conducted using paper or electronic ballots. Eligible voters are full-time instructional faculty.

a) In the event the odd/even year election cycle is disrupted, the Senate is authorized to designate special one-year terms to resolve the disruption. If multiple seats are up for election in a college in this circumstance, the one-year seats will be determined by lot.

Voting Process:

ab) A slate of candidates can be determined before the meeting by the Nominating Committee, but additional names may be shared via email by members of the instructional faculty at any time prior to the deadline for submitting ballots. Write-in votes will also be permitted in all elections.

bc) Senatorial ballots will indicate the slate of eligible nominees and the number of seats available for that college. A faculty member may cast votes equal to the number of open seats in his or her college. Each vote should be cast for a different individual. Votes may also be cast for write-in candidates. Those receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to the available senatorial seats. Thus if there are three seats available, the top three vote getters will be elected to those seats provided that no eligibility rules (such as number of senators per department, balance of tenured and non-tenured per college) are violated. In the event of a conflict on eligibility grounds with the set of highest vote getters, the faculty senate will take measures to resolve the conflict which may in some instances include reballoting for some of the open seats.

(3) Section c. Membership, subsection 5

Vacancies shall be filled within ten class days through election by the constituency from which the vacancy occurred. Should a vacancy occur when the University is not in regular session, the election shall be held within ten class days of the beginning of the following semester. **The newly elected senator shall serve the remainder of the term of the departing senator. If this remainder is an academic year or less, the remainder shall not count to the two consecutive term limit.**

(4) Section g. Relationship to General Faculty Committees

Instructional faculty committees as provided for in the University Handbook report to the Faculty Senate for action on their deliberations and recommendations. The Faculty Senate elects faculty members to at-large positions on the standing committees of the University **on which there is not already a senator serving as a duly elected or appointed member.** The Faculty Senate shall have the right to establish its own committees.

(5) Section k. Instructional Faculty Committees and the Faculty Senate, subsection 4, subsubsection b

~~All committees are required to file electronic copies of agendas and accurate minutes of all committee meeting and hearings with the Secretary of the Faculty Senate.~~ **The Faculty Senate reserves the right to request require electronic copies of agendas and accurate minutes of any committee meeting and hearings, to be filed with the Secretary of the Faculty Senate.** The Faculty Grievance Committee is exempt from this requirement.

(6) Section k. Instructional Faculty Committees and the Faculty Senate, subsection 4, subsubsection c

When a committee is ready to bring a resolution to the Faculty Senate, the committee chairman will inform the Secretary of the Faculty Senate and submit a an electronic **copy** of the resolution, with rationale, for consideration by the Faculty Senate. Resolutions and rationales shall accompany the agenda for the meeting at which the resolution is scheduled for action by the Faculty Senate.