

It is my intention to make a motion that we approve the attached bylaws change and send it to the faculty for a vote at the earliest opportunity.

Rationale for proposed bylaws change:

Given the way that shared governance and the role of the Faculty Senate has evolved, the president of the senate has become a more important position than those of us who worked on the original bylaws anticipated. The Faculty Senate President is often the faculty representative at administrative meetings or university events, even though under our current bylaws the president may not even have been elected to represent the faculty. Also under our current bylaws, by the time the Vice President is “elected” there are only 12 or 13 people eligible to run. So the VP (then later the President) is the one of those 12 or 13 whose arm could be sufficiently twisted. This is the rationale for electing the VP from the faculty at large.

Section 7.

The President of the Senate shall formally and promptly notify in writing the Faculty and the appropriate administrator(s) of Senate and Faculty decisions.

Section 8.

The Senate Standing Committees shall be empowered to make studies, reports, recommendations, and decisions in specific areas within the purview of their delegated responsibilities. Several committees are charged in these Bylaws with exercising appeal, hearing, and judicial responsibilities or otherwise making recommendations concerning Faculty matters directly to the University administration. All other committee decisions shall be communicated to the Senate for approval.

Article III. The Faculty Senate and its Officers.

Section 1. The Faculty Senate:

The Senate shall consist of nineteen Senators. Three Senators shall be elected from and by each of the four Schools within the University, one Senator shall be elected from and by Faculty in the Library, and six Senators, **including the President, Vice President, and Past President, shall be elected at-large from the entire Faculty.** Should administrative reorganization change either the number of Schools within the University or the distribution of Faculty within the Schools, until such time as the Faculty amend this section of the Bylaws, the Senate shall utilize the Faculty membership in the Schools which existed at the time of the Senate elections immediately prior to the reorganization as the basis for subsequent elections.

Section 2. Officers of the Senate:

Each year the Faculty will elect, at-large, a Vice President from among the faculty, including sitting senators who are not in their fourth, fifth or sixth consecutive year on the senate. In the event that a sitting senator is elected, his/her remaining term will be filled by a replacement senator from the same constituency.

The Senate shall elect annually from among the Senators ~~a Vice-President~~, a Secretary, and a Webmaster. The current Vice-President shall assume the duties of President for the following year **and the current President shall assume the duties of the immediate past president.** The duties of the Senate officers are specified below.

A. The President of the Senate shall:

- i. Preside at all meetings of the Faculty and of the Senate;
- ii. With the advice and consent of the Senate appoint Designated Senators to Senate Committees;
- iii. Formally, promptly, and in writing notify the Faculty and appropriate administrators of decisions of the Senate and of the Faculty; and
- iv. Perform such other duties as the Senate shall direct.

- B. The Vice President of the Senate shall:
- i. Assume the duties and responsibilities of the President of the Senate whenever the President of the Senate is unavailable to serve; and
 - ii. Perform such other duties as the Senate shall direct.

- C. The Secretary of the Senate shall:
- i. Prepare and distribute to the Faculty agendas and minutes of all meetings of the Faculty and of the Senate;
 - ii. Maintain records of all actions of the Faculty and of the Senate; and
 - iii. Perform such other duties as the Senate shall direct.

- D. The Webmaster of the Senate shall:
- i. Maintain and update the Senate's web page;
 - ii. Maintain a complete, accurate, and public listing of Faculty;
 - iii. Post all the approved minutes of the Senate;
 - iv. Serve as the Designated Senator on the Membership and Elections Committee;
 - v. Make Changes/Corrections approved by the president of the Senate; and
 - vi. Post all the approved minutes and/or reports from senate standing committees.

E. The Immediate Past President shall:

- i. Serve as an officer of the Senate;
- ii. Advise the President during the transition period; and ;
- iii. Remind and or inform the other officers of any unfinished business and any needed administrative response to previous recommendations.

E. F. The Officers of the Senate acting together shall:

- i. With the advice and consent of the Senate appoint ad hoc committees;
- ii. Receive requests for Faculty action from all members of the University community, take appropriate action, and respond to those concerned in a timely manner;
- iii. Refer matters requiring Faculty action to Senate Standing Committees, to ad hoc committees, to the Senate, or to the Faculty as they judge to be appropriate;
- iv. Receive reports from Senate Standing Committees, from ad hoc committees, and from other groups and organizations, and forward these reports to the Senate or to the Faculty for consideration;
- v. Prepare agendas for meetings of the Senate and the Faculty; and
- vi. Coordinate and facilitate communication among the Senate, Senate Standing Committees, ad hoc committees, the Faculty, and other groups and organizations.

Article IV. Rules, Meetings, Quorums, and Voting.

Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order:

Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall provide parliamentary procedures for conducting the business of the entire Faculty, the Senate, and committees.

Section 7. Quorum of the Senate:

A quorum of the Senate shall be thirteen Senators.

Section 8. Voting:

Except as specified in Robert's Rules of Order or elsewhere in these Bylaws, motions in meetings of all Faculty groups described in these Bylaws shall be passed by majority vote of those in attendance, provided a quorum is present when the vote is taken.

Article V. Elections, Terms of Office, Number of Terms, Recalls and Vacancies.

Section 1. Conduct of Elections:

Elections may be conducted in meetings of the Faculty, in meetings of the Schools, in meetings of the Senate, in meetings of the Committees, by written ballot, or by other means as approved by the Senate. The Membership and Elections Committee of the Senate shall conduct all elections for Senators, for members of Senate Standing Committees, and for Faculty Representatives to Other Faculty Organizations.

Section 2. Election of Senators from Each School:

The Faculty in each School shall elect the three Senators from that School, and the faculty in the Library shall elect one Senator from the Library, to terms of office of three years, with each term beginning on the July 1 following the election, and with one Senator's term ending on June 30 on each of the following three years. Should a School or the Library fail to elect a senator for any term, a member of the Faculty shall be elected at-large for one year, after which the school or library shall have the opportunity to elect a replacement for the remainder of the term.

Section 3. Election of Committee Members from Each School:

The Faculty in each School shall elect those members of committees who represent that school. Should a School fail to elect a member of a committee for any term, a member of the Faculty shall be elected at-large for that term. Each member of a committee shall have a term beginning on July 1 following the election and ending on June 30 of a subsequent year.

Section 4. Election of At-Large Senators:

The Faculty as a whole shall elect the six at-large Senators to terms of office of three years, with each term beginning on the July 1 following the election, and with two Senators' terms ending on June 30 on each of the following three years. Thus each year the Faculty as a whole shall elect two senators, one of whom will be elected as Vice President of the Senate.
