

Rules of the Faculty Senate

Article I. Powers and Jurisdiction of the Senate

- A. The University's Bylaws provide for the faculty to play several roles in governance. These are performed at a number of levels in the institution. Elected by faculty colleagues, the Senate ensures excellence and equity in both policies and practices that affect faculty across the university. Its responsibilities include monitoring academic policies and regulations, making recommendations for the academic budget, and setting the general and minimum standards for instruction throughout the university. Its duty is also to represent the interests of faculty members and to be concerned with their individual and collective welfare, as well as the general welfare of the university.

The members of the Senate shall, in accordance with the Bylaws, have primary responsibility for:

1. instruction and academic standards;
2. curriculum and course approvals;
3. recommendations of faculty appointments, promotions, and faculty personnel concerns;
4. recommendations for the instructional budget;
5. recommendations of policies affecting student affairs.

For curricular and academic programs, the Faculty Senate will consider matters affecting more than one school or college.

The Faculty Senate and its representatives on the Board of Trustees and on Board committees may discuss and express their views about any matter affecting the university. These views may be shared with any individual, faculty, or group within the university.

- B. The Senate shall have the power:
1. To delegate and to re-delegate or to reclaim the exercise of any of its powers to its standing committees.
 2. To fill or to provide for the filling of vacancies in its membership or leadership between annual elections, and to fix the procedures for the nomination and election of at large members of the Senate and of its standing committees.
 3. To create, reconstitute, and abolish, and to provide for the appointment and discharge of members of special committees and to define the powers of those committees.
 4. To create, reconstitute, and abolish standing committees, and to define the power thereof, with the understanding that any standing committee may, in addition, exercise powers delegated by the Board of Trustees.
 5. To invite any person to attend a meeting and to speak within limits set by the Senate. Guests may not vote.

6. To take such other action by resolution as it may deem necessary and proper for the exercise of its authority and responsibilities.

Article II. Membership

- A. The voting membership of the Senate shall be elected by the university faculty resulting in 24 members. There will be the Chair and the Past Chair. There will be four members from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and one each from the Kogod School of Business (KSB), the School of Communication (SOC), the School of International Service (SIS), the School of Public Affairs (SPA), the Washington College of Law (WCL), and the University Library; all to be elected by secret ballot within each unit. In addition fulltime faculty will elect at large by secret ballot five (5) fulltime faculty members; at least two must be tenure-line faculty and at least one must be a term faculty member (eligible term faculty must have a contract that will accommodate a two-year term). Each designee appointed by the chair of each of the following committees are additional voting members of the Senate; Committee on Faculty Actions, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Graduate Curriculum Committee, Committee on Information Services, Committee on Academic Budget and Benefits, Committee on Learning Assessment, Committee on Student Learning and Academic Engagement. No member of the Senate can serve in more than one of the above positions.

Term limits are defined as ineligibility to again serve on the Senate for the next two academic years. The Immediate Past Chair of the Senate will remain a member through the completion of his or her term even if this exceeds the normal term limit rule. All other Senators are subject to a term limit of two consecutive terms or a maximum of four consecutive academic years. At the completion of the term of office of the Immediate Past Chair, the standard term limit will apply to this person.

The Provost, as the chief academic officer, is the official leader of the faculty and an *ex officio* member of the Senate but does not vote. He or she has all other privileges of senate membership.

The Dean of Academic Affairs will serve as an *ex officio* member of the Senate but does not vote. He or she has all other privileges of senate membership.

- B. The university faculty shall elect, annually, in the spring, approximately one half of the faculty membership of the Senate for terms of two years.
- C. All full-time faculty, and all administrative officers of the university who hold academic rank are eligible to participate in elections for the Senate and, with the exceptions of the President and Provost, to be elected as faculty representatives.
- D. Terms of office of newly elected senators shall begin on June 15.

Article III. Officers of the Senate

- A. The Chair of the Senate shall have been the vice chair or, in the event of need, be elected by and from the Senate. The chair serves for a term of one year, beginning June 15. The chair is leader of the Faculty Senate and cannot continue his or her former representative role. He or she shall preside, and appoint special committees unless the Senate by resolution fixes another rule for their selection. Upon completion of his or her term as Chair, the individual becomes the Immediate Past Chair for a one-year term.
- B. The Vice Chair of the Senate shall be elected by and from the Senate for a term of one year, beginning on June 15. The vice chair will continue his or her representative role. He or she shall discharge the responsibilities of the Chair of the Senate in his or her absence or at his or her request.
- C. The Immediate Past Chair shall serve a one-year term.

Article IV. Meetings

- A. The Chair of the Senate shall fix the schedule of dates and times for its regular meetings (normally on the first Wednesday of each month) for the academic year. Information related to the meeting shall be provided in a direct and timely manner to members of the Senate and others deemed appropriate including the President, the Provost, all deans, the University Librarian and the chairs or heads of the American University Student Government, the Graduate Leadership Council and the Student Bar Association.
- B. Special meetings may be called by the President of the university, the Provost, the Chair of the Senate (or in his or her absence or incapacity, the Vice Chair of the Senate), or by a majority of the Senate.
- C. A voting quorum of the Senate shall consist of a majority of its voting membership. The Chair is to be counted in this computation.

Article V. Non-Voting Participants and Observers

- A. The President of the university and members of the Board of Trustees, vice presidents, the University Counsel, the Dean of Academic Affairs, the deans of CAS, KSB, SIS, SOC, SPA, the University Librarian, any other member of the administration whose presence is appropriate to the agenda in the judgment of the Provost or the Chair, and the Chair of the Staff Council or designee, the heads of the American University Student Government, the Graduate Leadership Council and the Student Bar Association are invited to attend all senate meetings for the purpose of ensuring that appropriate communication be maintained between the Senate and their respective offices. They shall have the privilege of speaking on motions equally with the members of the Senate. The President is entitled to sit at the tables at which the Senate members sit.

- B. Members of the university community are invited to senate meetings.
- C. News representatives of the student newspaper, radio, television station, and other University publications are specifically invited to attend and to report on senate meetings. Representatives of other communications media may attend by special permission of the Chair or Senate. Use of television cameras and other recording devices requires advanced notice to the Chair and university office of Media Relations.
- D. The Senate has the right by majority vote to go into executive session. When an executive session is voted, all non-voting participants and observers including press representatives must leave the meeting hall unless invited to stay.

Article VI. Agenda and Conduct of Meeting

- A. The agenda will ordinarily include the roll call; the minutes of the previous meeting; report of the chair; report of the Provost; items requiring Senate action; items of informational interest and items for the good of the order.
- B. Any member of the Senate may submit to the Executive Committee (see Article IX.A) items for inclusion in the agenda no later than fifteen days before the next Senate meeting. The Executive Committee, shall prepare the agenda, including omitting, consolidating, or revising it. The Chair may specify for any item on the agenda the amount of time allotted for debate and whether or not amendments shall be allowed. The Chair's and the Executive Committee's actions in setting agendas are subject to review by the Senate.
- C. Members of the university faculty who are not members of the Senate may submit items for inclusion in the agenda under the same conditions as members of the Senate.
- D. Members bringing matters to the agenda should make clear the reasons for bringing them. Evidence should also be presented that schools and departments having an interest in the item have been consulted. Some expression of the views should accompany the presented material.
- E. An executive summary and supporting documentation and copies of motions requiring Senate action should be provided to the Chair for distribution with the agenda.
- F. Although the Senate usually is able to conduct its business without strict compliance with published Rules of Order, ordinarily members and others should restrict their comments to no more than three minutes at any one time so that all will have an opportunity to express their views.

Article VII. Approval of Senate Actions

Action taken by the Senate under the authority of the Bylaws of the University which require administrative implementation shall be transmitted to the Provost for consideration in the following

manner: Within five calendar days of passage, the Chair of the Senate shall forward copies of any approved or recommended actions to the Provost. It is expected that the Provost will reply, in writing, within 30 calendar days of the date of Senate approval and explain his or her decision.

Article VIII. Access to Records of the Senate

- A. The agenda and minutes of the Senate shall be serially numbered and duplicated in accordance with provisions of the university archivist. Copies of supporting documents will be suitably reproduced for inclusion in the official copies of the record.
- B. The Senate shall inform the faculty of important actions taken. The agenda, minutes and supporting documentation of the Senate shall be considered open to inspection by all members of the university faculty and shall be maintained in a place convenient for their inspection. At the end of the year, a bound copy is forwarded to the university archives, and two sets of Senate records are available at the office of the Faculty Senate.
- C. The Senate, and its members acting individually and collectively, should take proactive efforts to engage in outreach to their constituents.

Article IX. Committees and Functions

The Executive Committee, all standing committees, and all special and advisory committees are subcommittees of the Faculty Senate and, as such, their authority does not supersede the authority of the Faculty Senate.

A. Executive Committee

At the final meeting of each academic year, the Senate shall constitute an Executive Committee for the following academic year. The Senate Executive Committee shall have eight voting members: the Senate Past Chair, the Senate Chair, the Senate Vice Chair, the Academic Budget and Benefits Committee Chair, the Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Chair of the Graduate Curriculum Committee, an at-large Senator, and an additional Senator from among its number. The at-large Senator and additional Senator should be elected each academic year at the first Senate meeting by the new Senate body. When seeking to fill the at-large and general seats on the Executive Committee, the Senate will strive for representation from as many colleges and schools as possible. In instances when more than one Senator has been nominated for either the at-large or general seat on the Executive Committee, the Senate shall use a secret ballot to decide who will serve. The Provost and the Dean of Academic Affairs are *ex officio* non-voting members of the Senate Executive Committee.

The Senate Chair has the discretion to invite any person to attend an Executive Committee meeting and to speak within limits set by the committee. Guests may not vote. The Senate Executive Committee has the right by majority vote to go into executive session. When an

executive session is voted, all non-voting Committee members and guests must leave the meeting place unless invited to stay by majority vote.

The Executive Committee will meet with university administrators or their designees at least once every three years to receive a report on activities, plans, and/or changes in policies with attention to how those activities, plans, and/or changes in policies affect academic life at the university. Such university administrators may include, but are not limited to, the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies, Vice Provost of Graduate Studies and Research, Vice President of Campus Life, Vice President of Finance and Treasurer, University Registrar, and the Director of the Center for Teaching, Research, and Learning.

If the need arises, the Executive Committee will make recommendations to the Provost based on each report and/or invite the university administrator to report to the Faculty Senate.

Among the other duties of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee are the following:

- 1) setting the Senate's agenda,
- 2) bringing motions to the Senate on its own initiative,
- 3) informing the faculty when nominations are due for Senate elections and making reasonable efforts to ensure that there are the appropriate number of nominees for each election,
- 4) nominating faculty subject to Senate ratification to serve as faculty representatives on committees of the Board of Trustees,
- 5) maintaining liaison with all Senate committees,
- 6) reviewing accreditation reports
- 7) reviewing Academic Unit/Program Review reports,
- 8) providing minutes for Executive Committee meetings, and
- 9) selecting Hearing Panel members as charged in the *Faculty Manual*.

B. Standing Committees

1. **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee**, to consist of seven full-time faculty members for staggered three year terms; two from CAS, and one from each of KSB, SIS, SOC, SPA, and the University Library; all to be elected by secret ballot within each unit. The membership will also include one undergraduate student designated by the Student Government. The chair of the Committee on General Education and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies will serve as *ex officio* non-voting members of the committee and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies will provide staff assistance for the committee. The chair, elected by the faculty representatives of the committee, receives one course release, is a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and is a member of the Faculty Senate.

The committee makes recommendations to the appropriate unit(s) and/or administrator(s) regarding:

- the existing undergraduate curriculum and course offerings including those in General Education and the Honors Program,

- new programs and major curricular changes,
- new courses for academic quality, redundancy of material across teaching units/academic units, and outcomes assessment,
- all changes and terminations in courses or programs that affect more than one teaching unit, and
- general curricular policies affecting undergraduate academic programs.

While all proposals require the support of the relevant teaching unit(s) and/or academic unit(s), the committee is directly responsible for the Faculty Senate's commitment to academic excellence as reflected by curriculum and course offerings; therefore, every effort must be made to address the committee's recommendations. If the committee rejects a proposal or is not satisfied with responses to their recommendations for changes to a proposal, then the proposal will be sent back to the unit.

In order for the committee to have time to complete its review, all changes targeted to begin the next academic year must be forwarded to the chair of the committee by the first Monday in March of the current academic year.

2. **Graduate Curriculum Committee**, to consist of seven full-time faculty members for staggered three year terms; two from CAS, and one from each of KSB, SIS, SOC, SPA, and the University Library; all to be elected by secret ballot within each unit; one graduate student will be designated by the Graduate Leadership Council. The Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Research will serve as an *ex officio* non-voting member of the committee and will provide staff assistance for the committee. The chair, elected by the faculty representatives of the committee, receives one course release, is a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and is a member of the Faculty Senate.

The committee makes recommendations to the appropriate unit(s) and/or administrator(s) regarding:

- the existing graduate curriculum and course offerings,
- new programs and major curricular changes,
- new courses for completeness of the syllabus, redundancy of material across teaching units/academic units, up to date reading list and other resources, clarity of assignments, rigor, and specificity of grading and evaluation expectations,
- all changes and terminations that affect more than one teaching unit, and
- general curricular policies affecting the graduate academic programs.

While all proposals require the support of the relevant teaching unit(s) and/or academic unit(s), the committee is directly responsible for the Faculty Senate's commitment to academic excellence as reflected by curriculum and course offerings; therefore, every effort must be made to address the committee's recommendations. If the committee rejects a proposal or is not satisfied with responses to their recommendations for changes to a proposal, then the proposal will be sent back to the unit.

In order for the committee to have time to complete its review, all changes targeted to begin the next academic year must be forwarded to the chair of the committee by the first Monday in March of the current academic year.

3. **Committee on Faculty Actions (CFA)** is an elected body of the university faculty. Its function is to represent the interests of faculty members, individually and collectively, in matters related to appointments, reappointments, tenure, and promotion. The CFA promotes equitable treatment of faculty. Each CFA member is to consider solely the good of the university as a whole when undertaking the work of the committee.

The CFA is composed of eight senior faculty, preferably full professors, one of whom is from each of the following academic units: the Kogod School of Business, the School of Communication, the School of International Service, the School of Public Affairs, the University Library; and one from each cluster (arts and humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences) of the College of Arts and Sciences. Tenure-line faculty from each academic unit elect the unit's member(s) of this committee. CFA members have staggered three-year terms. The members may not be academic unit deans, teaching unit chairs, or persons whose principal duties are administrative in nature. The committee elects its own chair and vice chair from among its membership. Members of the CFA will serve for staggered three-year terms, with no more than four to be elected in any one year except to fill vacancies in unexpired terms. The chair and vice chair are to be elected by and from the membership of the committee. The chair receives one course release.

The CFA has the following responsibilities:

- To make recommendations to the Faculty Senate and the Provost on all matters and policies relating to full-time and part-time faculty appointments, reappointments, tenure, and promotions
- To evaluate and review, in accordance with the criteria set forth in this *Manual*, all faculty actions involving the reappointment, tenure, and promotion of tenure-line faculty and to make recommendations on all such actions to the Dean of Academic Affairs
- To evaluate and review, in accordance with the criteria set forth in this *Manual*, all faculty actions involving the reappointment with promotion to Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full Professor of term faculty and to make recommendations on all such actions to the Dean of Academic Affairs
- To make recommendations for senior hires in accordance with the subsection "Appointment of Faculty with Tenure" of the section "Provisions for Faculty Appointments in Tenure-Line Positions"

- To conduct a review at least every five years of all published criteria from each academic unit and its teaching units that pertain to the appointment, reappointment, tenure, and promotion of full-time and part-time faculty members. The reviews will assist the CFA as they prepare recommendations on faculty actions and ensure that consistently high standards are maintained throughout the university
 - To review and make recommendations on matters and policies as requested by the Faculty Senate, including proposed changes to the *Manual*.
4. **Committee on Academic Budget and Benefits**, to consist of eight members, for staggered three year terms, elected from and by the faculties from the academic units with two from CAS and one each from KSB, SIS, SOC, SPA, WCL and the University Library, one graduate student designated by the Graduate Leadership Council and one undergraduate designated by the Student Government. One emeriti faculty member will be elected to serve on the committee for issues relating to benefits. The president appoints four members of the Senate Academic Budget and Benefits Committee, including the Chair of the Committee, to also serve as voting members on the university Budget Committee. Customarily, the joint committee-UBC appointees are from academic units that do not otherwise have faculty representatives in the UBC. The chair, elected by the faculty membership of the committee, is a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and is a member of the Faculty Senate. Customarily, the committee has the prerogative to operate as two subcommittees: a Budget subcommittee and a Benefits subcommittee.

The committee is responsible for reviewing the budget guidelines each budget cycle and making recommendations to the Executive Committee for Senate action concerning the budget. The committee considers all financial matters pertaining to the academic programs and faculty of the university and is authorized by the Senate to request financial data. As appropriate, the committee shall report to the Executive Committee if matters need Senate action or oversight attention.

The committee also represents the Senate in matters of faculty benefits. It reviews and makes recommendations in areas including, but not limited to, retirement benefits, health and disability benefits, other types of insurance benefits, tuition benefits, and parking benefits. As appropriate, the committee shall report to the Executive Committee if matters need Senate action or oversight attention.

Given the investment of financial resources in university facilities, the Committee also represents the Senate on issues of building and renovation programs and related matters. Therefore, on an annual basis the Committee reviews information from the appropriate offices and when applicable reports its findings as related to academic budget concerns to the Executive Committee.

5. **Committee on Information Services**, to consist of ten members elected proportionally by the faculties from and by the academic units with four from CAS and one each from KSB, SIS, SOC, SPA, WCL and the University Library, one graduate student designated by the Graduate Leadership Council and one undergraduate designed by the Student Government. The chair is to be elected by the membership of the committee from its faculty members.

The committee is responsible for maintaining liaison with the Director of the Center for Teaching, Research, and Learning. The committee shall assess the varying computer needs of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. In exercising its oversight functions, the committee shall examine the adequacy of the delivery of information services to students and faculty, in particular, facilities, budget support, and staff. As appropriate, the committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Committee on Academic Budget and Benefits, including recommendations about long-range financial planning.

The committee also is responsible for maintaining liaison with the University Librarian concerning plans and programs. In cooperation with the library, the committee shall assess the varying library needs of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. In exercising its oversight functions, the committee shall examine the adequacy of the delivery of library services to students and faculty, in particular, facilities, budget support, staff, and cooperation with the Consortium of University Libraries. As appropriate, the committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Committee on Academic Budget and Benefits, including recommendations about long-range financial planning.

6. **Committee on Student Learning and Academic Engagement**, to consist of six members elected from and by the faculties of the academic units with one each from CAS, KSB, SIS, SOC, SPA, and the University Library, two graduate students designated by the Graduate Leadership Council, two undergraduates designated by the Student Government, the president of the Residence Hall Association, and the Director of Athletics. The chair is elected by the membership from among its faculty members.

The committee serves as the Senate's liaison to the American University student community on matters that affect student learning and academic engagement. These matters may include but not be limited to student academic performance and retention, academic integrity and student conduct, student-faculty relations, experiential learning, academic support services, financial assistance programs, co-curricular and extra-curricular programming, and residential life. The committee will carry out its charge with sensitivity to the needs of AU's diverse student body, which includes part-time, non-traditional, international, and nonresidential students. Matters requiring Senate action or a public forum will be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Senate. The committee also addresses matters of academic policy pertaining to the university's intercollegiate athletics program. These include academic standards for student-athletes and the establishment of regulations for the program that conform to the academic

purposes of American University and comply with the regulations of intercollegiate athletics. Specifically, the committee will formulate and review eligibility criteria for participation on intercollegiate athletic teams, review the academic performance of program participants, and review decisions on exceptional cases as submitted by the director of Athletics.

C. Special and Advisory Committees

1. **Committee on Faculty Grievances**, to consist of seven tenured members of the university faculty elected by tenured and tenure-track faculty for staggered three-year terms, with no more than three to be elected in any one year, except to fill vacancies in unexpired terms. The chair is to be elected by and from the membership of the committee.

The committee hears and makes a determination concerning all grievances filed by members of the faculty. As appropriate, the committee shall report to the Executive Committee if matters need Senate action or oversight attention. The committee is also charged with overseeing university policies and programs to make certain that all faculty are accorded equitable treatment and allocated resources equitably within the university in accordance with the university's statement on non-discrimination. The committee shall propose Senate action, as needed, and recommend oversight review, as needed, to the Executive Committee of the Senate.

2. **The Faculty Hearing Committee** shall be composed of 15 tenured members of the teaching faculty elected by the university faculty-at-large. Members of the Hearing Committee shall be elected for terms of three years.

Individual panels are drawn from the elected members of the Committee to hear cases. The Faculty Hearing Committee is charged with hearing cases referred to it by the Provost involving termination of continuous tenure appointments, or probationary or special term appointments before the end of the specified term due to incompetence, misconduct, or other cases involving major disciplinary sanctions against a faculty member. It is also used to hear cases of a formal complaint of sexual harassment or violation of research integrity. It reviews cases presented to it and makes recommendations in accordance with the procedures specified in the section on *Disciplinary Actions, Investigations, and Formal Faculty Hearings* in the *Faculty Manual*.

3. **Committee on Learning Assessment** shall consist of one full-time faculty member from KSB, SIS, SOC, SPA, the University Library, and one faculty members from each of the three clusters for CAS,. The full-time faculty of each unit shall elect its member or members and elected members shall serve a two-year term. There will be one representative from the General Education. These representatives shall serve staggered two-year terms. The Director of Institutional Research and Assessment

shall be an *ex-officio*, non-voting member of this committee. The Committee members shall elect a chair.

The charge of the committee is to provide guidance and assistance to the colleges and schools in developing and implementing academic program assessment plans, analyzing and interpreting assessment results, which are reported to the appropriate unit leader. The committee interacts with other stakeholders, such as the Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Studies, Vice-Provost for Graduate Studies and Research, Center for Teaching, Research, and Learning, and Campus Life. The committee will submit a written report to the Faculty Senate each December.

4. **Committee on General Education** shall consist of three faculty members from each of the five general education areas of study and a chair serve as members of the Committee on General Education. The chair is selected by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies in consultation with the appropriate dean. The members of the committee are selected by the chair of the Committee on General Education and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies in consultation with the appropriate deans. The chair of the Committee on General Education serves as a resource on the Faculty Senate's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies serves as an *ex officio* non-voting member of the committee and provides staff assistance for the committee.
5. **Honors Advisory Committee** is to advise the Director of the Honors Program and consists of faculty and students appointed by the Director of the Honors Program and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies in consultation with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the appropriate deans. The Director of the Honors Program serves as chair.

D. Board of Trustees Representatives of the Faculty Senate

The past chair and the chair of the Faculty Senate serve as non-voting Faculty Trustees of the Board of Trustees. The vice chair provides a report of the Senate for each meeting of the Board of Trustees and attends its general meeting as the Faculty Senate representative. The Chair serves on the Trusteeship Committee and selects one other committee on which to serve as a Faculty Trustee. The Past Chair of the Faculty Senate selects two other committees of the Board of Trustees on which to serve as a Faculty Trustees. The Vice Chair of the Senate serves on the Trusteeship Committee as the faculty representative on that committee. At the beginning of each academic year, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will nominate faculty to serve as faculty representatives on the remaining committees of the Board of Trustees:

- Academic Affairs
- Alumni Affairs and Development
- Athletics
- Audit

- Campus Life
- Communication
- Finance and Investment
- Trusteeship – (Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate)

The Executive Committee nominations are subject to Senate ratification.

Article X. Eligibility for, Nominations and Elections to the Senate and Its Committees

- A. Eligibility All full-time faculty are eligible to be elected to the Senate and its committees except for the Committee on Faculty Actions and the Committee on Faculty Grievances all of whose members must be tenured faculty and elected by tenured and tenure-track faculty. Emeriti faculty are eligible to be elected to the Benefits Subcommittee of the Committee on Academic Budget and Benefits. WCL faculty are not eligible for membership on the Committee on Faculty Actions nor may WCL faculty vote for the membership of that committee. WCL faculty may not have representation on any other Senate committees except for the Committee on Academic Budget and Benefits, the Committee on Information Systems, and the Executive Committee.
- B. Nominations and Elections for Campus Wide Positions
1. Self-nominations, of eligible faculty willing to serve as at-large members on the Senate, the Committee on Faculty Grievances, or the Faculty Hearing Committee should be sent to the Senate office by the Friday before the spring semester vacation in March. All eligible individuals who are nominated and who agree to run will be placed on the appropriate ballots.
 2. Balloting to fill at large vacancies on the Senate and to fill vacancies on the the Committee on Faculty Grievances, and the Faculty Hearing Committee shall be conducted in the week immediately following the spring semester vacation in March. If such scheduling would not result in a termination of balloting by March 30, the Vice Chair of the Senate will specify a period in March for which balloting would end by the date specified.
 3. The Senate is empowered to conduct on-line balloting if it is satisfied this can be done in a reasonably secure manner.
 4. Ballots will also be mailed to emeriti faculty and to any other full-time faculty who have requested this in writing. These ballots may be returned by U.S. mail, through campus mail, or may be delivered in person to the Senate office and must be in the Senate office by the termination of balloting deadline. If the Senate conducts on-line balloting, it may also authorize the use of this for emeriti faculty and others covered by this paragraph.
 5. Faculty members will be allowed to vote for as many persons as there are vacancies in the membership to be filled, and those receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected according to the regulation on Senate membership.

6. Ballots shall be counted by the Vice Chair of the Senate and by persons designated by the Vice Chair of the Senate on the business day following the termination of the balloting period. If the election is by electronic balloting, the results will be sent to the Vice Chair of the Senate and to at least one other person designated by the Vice Chair on the business day following the termination of the balloting period. No candidate for any of the offices or positions being balloted will be a part of this group.
 7. Ties shall be immediately resolved by the group counting the ballots by lot.
 8. The results of the election shall be certified by the group counting the ballots and announced to the campus community.
- C. Nominations and Elections within Units Representatives of the various academic units, both as Senate members and members of its committees, are to be elected by secret ballots using whatever system for nominations and elections that is approved by the faculty of the individual units. The academic unit dean will notify the Chair of the Senate, no later than April 10, of names of the newly elected Senators and committee members.
- D. Nominations and elections of Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs Committees whose chairs, and for the Committee on Faculty Actions its vice-chair, are members of the Senate, shall conduct their own elections of these officers as soon as practical following the annual election of its new members. The chairs will serve for a term of one year. The committees may use whatever system they decide and the chair whose term is ending will notify the Provost and Chair of the Senate of the results of who the new chair and, when appropriate, vice-chair are.
- E. Vacancies
1. In the event of a vacancy in the Senate or on a committee, the vacant seat shall be filled for the remainder of the vacated term by vote of the faculty of the unit represented, by vote of the members of the committee when appropriate or, for at large members and those of the Committee on Faculty Grievances and the Faculty Hearing Committee, the eligible person, not a member of the Senate or that committee, who received the greatest number of votes in the most recent general election for the Senate. If, however, a vacancy occurs on the Senate or a committee or in an office for which there exists a person already elected, but not yet due to take office, this person shall succeed immediately to fill the vacancy and will serve until the completion of the term for which he or she was elected. If necessary to complete this term, the normal term limits are suspended. If two or more persons are eligible under this rule, the one who received the most votes shall assume the position or office.
 2. Vacancies in the offices of Vice Chair or Immediate Past Chair shall be filled by majority vote for the remainder of the vacated term by the Senate which may suspend the normal term limit rule to fill one of these positions.

Article XI. Authority of the Senate During the Summer Recess

Between spring commencement and the first day of classes in the fall semester, the Chair and at least one other officer and any other senators who can attend a special meeting may exercise the authority of the Senate. This authority shall only be exercised in cases in which urgent action must be taken prior to the first meeting of the Senate in the fall. A full report of all actions under this article shall be presented to the first fall meeting of the Senate.

Article XII. Amendments

The Senate may amend these rules as needed but may not abolish elections as provided for within units and also may not change the term limit rule except as specified for very limited circumstances in the election article above.