

THE BYLAWS OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Section A. Meetings

1. The Faculty Senate shall meet in regular session each month during the academic year and may meet in special session during the summer. The regular meetings shall be scheduled on Wednesdays. At the April meeting of the Senate, the Steering Committee shall present for confirmation by the Senate the dates for regular meetings of the Senate during the following academic year.
2. Special meetings may be held at any time at the call of the President of the University, the Steering Committee, or at the written request of ten voting members of the Senate, representing at least four colleges or schools.
3. When necessary, any meeting, whether regular or special, may be conducted through videoconference or internet-based technology consistent with § 286.011 F.S. When necessary, a vote may be taken electronically. Special rules may be developed to govern meetings that are conducted electronically. Any such rules shall supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any rule or decision of the Senate. Any vote conducted through the designated Internet meeting service shall be deemed a valid vote, providing the provisions of § 286.011 F.S. and quorum requirements are met.
4. All meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be open provided, however, that by a majority vote the Senate may go into closed session with only General Faculty members present.
5. The presiding officer of the Senate shall be elected by the Senate from its membership and shall serve as the Chairperson of the Steering Committee. In the absence of the presiding officer, the Vice Chairperson of the Steering Committee or a person designated by him or her shall preside.
6. Any member of the General Faculty may be recognized to speak, but the time of a non-member may be limited at the discretion of the presiding officer subject to the authority of the Senate to extend or curtail a non-member's time by a majority vote.

Section B. Quorum

A majority of the voting members of the Senate shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting, whether held in person or via Internet technology.

Section C. Order of Business

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes
4. Report of the Steering Committee
5. Announcements of the President of the University
6. Reports of Special Committees
7. Reports of Standing Committees

8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
10. Special Orders
11. University Welfare
12. Announcements of Deans and other Administrative Officers

Section D. Procedure

1. All meetings of the Senate shall be conducted in accordance with the third (1988) edition of *Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*, except as otherwise provided in the Florida State University Constitution or in these Bylaws.
2. Minutes shall be kept by the Secretary to the Faculty and shall be distributed to all members of the General Faculty, to all administrative officers, and to all members of the Professional Staff.
3. A roll call vote for recording in the minutes may be taken on request of fifteen (15) members.
4. The Steering Committee shall appoint annually a parliamentarian.

Section E. Elections of the Specialized Faculty Senators

Specialized Faculty shall elect their representatives for two-year terms. The Faculty Senate Elections Committee shall conduct the election process of the Specialized Faculty Senators. All voting shall be by secret ballot. Ties shall be broken by a fair random mechanism. Nomination lists and election ballots shall identify faculty by unit and include a reminder of the requirements for Specialized Faculty membership in the Senate as given in the Constitution of the Florida State University.

1. Eligible Specialized Faculty
Eligible Specialized Faculty are those faculty whose titles are specified in the Constitution of the Florida State University.
2. Nominations
A nominating ballot listing all eligible Specialized Faculty shall be circulated by February 15 to the eligible Specialized Faculty with a two-week return requirement.
Each eligible Specialized Faculty may nominate as many candidates from this list as there are open at-large Specialized Faculty Senator seats in the Faculty Senate.
Eligible Specialized Faculty in one of the four largest units may nominate one additional candidate from within their unit from the list. An eligible Specialized Faculty member may nominate the same candidate twice: once for the within unit and once for the at-large seats.
3. Elections
Elections take place after the return of the nominations.
For eligible Specialized Faculty in one of the four largest units there will be a unit ballot consisting of the two candidates from that unit who received the most nominations,

including any candidates tied for last position in the nomination process. Each eligible Specialized Faculty in one of the four largest units may vote for one candidate on this unit ballot. The election shall take place as soon as the nominating process has completed. The at-large election takes place after the large unit election is completed. There will be an at-large ballot consisting of twice the number of at-large senators to be elected. The names on the ballot are those who received the most nominations, including any candidates tied for last position in the nomination process. Candidates elected in the large unit election will not be included on this ballot. Each eligible Specialized Faculty may vote for as many candidates as there are open positions.

4. Alternate Senators

In the event an elected senator cannot perform the duties of a senator, an alternate will take their place. For a large unit senator, this will be the candidate who received the second most votes. For at large senators, this will be the candidate with the most votes who was not elected. The requirements for Specialized Faculty membership in the Senate as given in the Constitution of the Florida State University will be maintained.

Section F. Steering Committee and Senate President

1. Election

- a. As soon as the elected membership of the Senate has been certified by the Secretary to the Faculty, a nominating ballot listing all voting members of the Senate shall be circulated to the Senate membership with a two-weeks return requirement. Each member may nominate as many candidates from this list as there are positions on the Steering Committee to be filled.
- b. The March meeting of the Faculty Senate shall be the last regular meeting of that Senate for the academic year. Members of that Senate shall hold office until the first meeting of the new Senate. The new Senate shall be seated at the April meeting date, with the previous Senate President presiding until the new Senate shall elect its President from its ranks. A majority shall be required for election. The new Senate may receive reports and conduct business during elections for both the Senate President and the Steering Committee.
- c. As soon as the Senate President has been elected, the new Senate shall proceed to elect its seven-member Steering Committee. The Elections Committee shall prepare and circulate to the Senate membership two weeks in advance of the meeting a slate of nominees. The slate shall consist of twice the number to be elected, including any members tied for last position on the ballot. Additional nominations may be taken from the floor of the Senate with four seconds. Nomination and election ballots shall remind Senators that at least one person from each of four colleges or schools shall be represented on the Steering Committee. Names of Senators shall be listed by college or school. Four members shall be elected for two-year terms in even years and three members for two-year terms in odd years.
- d. Each member of the new Senate may vote for as many nominees as there are positions to be filled. On the first two ballots a majority shall be required for election. On the third ballot a plurality vote shall suffice. The Senate President shall withhold his/her ballot to break any possible ties on this third ballot. All voting shall be by secret ballot.

2. Organization and Jurisdiction of Steering Committee

- a. Immediately following their election at the April meeting of the Senate, members of the Steering Committee shall convene and elect their Vice Chairperson and Secretary, each for a one-year term.
- b. The Committee shall meet regularly, at least once a month, and on special call of the Chairperson. A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings.
- c. The Committee shall consider and advise regarding all matters which are within the jurisdiction of the Senate. In consultation with the President of the University, the Committee shall prepare the agenda for each Senate meeting and distribute it to the membership of the entire faculty at least two days before the Senate meets. Items may be added to the agenda at any meeting of the Senate under new business by unanimous consent or by majority vote. On request of the President of the University, the Committee shall advise and consult with him or her on any matter which he or she may call to its attention.
- d. The Committee may request information from any member of the faculty or any administrative officer and may invite any such person to sit with it for consultation or advice on matters within its jurisdiction.
- e. The Steering Committee may establish special committees to facilitate its work.

3. President of the Senate

- a. The President of the Senate shall be elected at the first meeting of the new Senate in April of each year. Notice of this election shall be provided by the Secretary to the Faculty to all members of the new Senate at least two weeks prior to the meeting. A list of the members of the new Senate and their college or school affiliation shall accompany the notice.
- b. The President of the Senate shall serve as liaison between the President of the University and the Senate and shall communicate to the President of the University the recommendations of the Steering Committee. The Vice Chairperson of the Steering Committee shall serve as liaison between the Senate and the Steering Committee, shall present the agenda at Senate meetings, and report the opinions and actions of the Steering Committee to the Senate membership.
- c. If the President/presiding officer of the Senate is unable to complete the elected term of office, the Vice Chairperson of the Steering Committee shall become President of the Senate for the remainder of that term. The candidate with the next highest number of votes in the most recent election to the Steering Committee shall become a member of the Steering Committee for the period that the Vice Chairperson fulfills that term of office as President. The Steering Committee shall then elect a new Vice Chairperson.
- d. Nominations or recommendations by the Steering Committee for committee members and other positions subject to election or consent by the Faculty Senate shall be distributed to the Senate two weeks prior to the meeting at which a decision is to be made.

Section G. Standing Committees

1. Budget Advisory Committee

The Budget Advisory Committee shall consider University budget policies, procedures and practices, with special emphasis on the academic budget. The Committee shall consist of the President of the Faculty Senate, a member appointed annually by the Steering Committee and who shall serve as chair, and the four faculty members appointed by the President of the University to the University Budget Committee. It shall consult regularly with the President of the University and the Vice President for Academic Affairs; it shall report on its deliberations at least each term to the Faculty Senate.

2. Committee on Memorials and Courtesies

The Committee on Memorials and Courtesies shall represent the Faculty Senate and General Faculty on appropriate occasions. The Committee shall consist of three faculty members appointed annually by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

3. Distance Learning Committee

The Distance Learning Committee shall provide policy development, oversight, and academic advice specific to the design and implementation of Distance Learning courses and degree programs. In particular, the committee will have the following responsibilities.

- (1) To propose to the Senate procedures and standards for authorization to offer courses and programs by delivery methods other than standard classroom delivery, and for enduring quality control of such course and program offerings.
- (2) To monitor the effectiveness with which the procedures and standards and standards adopted are being implemented.
- (3) To propose to the Senate modifications to existing standards and procedures as appropriate. This committee will supplement, not supplant, the functions of other existing committees.

The committee shall consist of the following members: the Chairs of the Undergraduate Policy, Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committees; three additional faculty members appointed by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate for staggered three-year terms. The Dean of the Faculties, or his or her designee, shall be a non-voting ex-officio member. The Director of the Office of Distributed and Distance Learning and the Vice President for Academic Affairs or his/her designee shall be non-voting ex-officio members. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee shall appoint its chairperson annually from the faculty representatives. The Committee will make its recommendations to the Steering Committee, which will transmit the recommendations to the Senate for action.

4. Elections Committee

The Elections Committee shall conduct Senate and University elections involving faculty. The Committee shall consist of three Senators appointed annually by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate; each appointee shall come from a different college or school.

In March, the Elections Committee shall prepare the ballots for the Grievance Committee and circulate them to all members of the General Faculty, allowing two weeks for the return of ballots. A majority vote shall be required for election. At the April meeting, the Elections Committee shall prepare the ballots and conduct the election of the Senate President and the Steering Committee.

The chairperson shall be appointed by the Steering Committee.

5. Graduate Policy Committee

The Graduate Policy Committee shall consider University-wide policies relating to graduate education. Members of this Committee shall be appointed by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for staggered three-year terms. Each college or school shall have one representative; the Colleges of Education, Business, and Social Sciences shall have one additional representative; and the College of Arts and Sciences shall have four additional representatives. The Vice President for Academic Affairs, or his or her designee, and the Dean of Graduate Studies, or his or her designee, shall be non-voting ex-officio members; and membership shall include two graduate student representatives from different colleges or schools appointed for a one-year term by the President of Student Government.

The Committee shall annually elect its chairperson from the faculty representatives. The Committee will make its recommendations to the Steering Committee, which will transmit the recommendations to the Senate for action.

6. Grievance Committee

The Grievance Committee shall have jurisdiction, through its hearing panels, to hear grievances, as defined by University rules, brought to its attention by any faculty member in relation to the University practice in professional relations, professional ethics, academic freedom, conditions of employment (including the termination or suspension of tenured and nontenured faculty), and general faculty welfare.

The Committee is empowered to create hearing panels for the consideration of individual cases. The Grievance Committee will report each term to the Faculty Senate. Action by a Grievance Committee hearing panel in no way precludes a faculty member from seeking redress through other official means; however, no other University committee shall serve as an appeals committee for cases initially heard by the Grievance Committee.

The Chairperson of the Elections Committee shall, through the Secretary to the Faculty, notify each college or school scheduled to nominate candidates for this Committee. The faculty of that unit shall, through procedures it shall determine, nominate from its ranks at least twice the number of faculty members to be elected. Additional nominations shall be taken from the floor of the Senate. Election shall be by the General Faculty for three-year staggered terms to begin August 1. Each college or school shall have one representative; the Colleges of Education, Business, and Social Sciences shall have an additional representative; and the College of Arts and Sciences shall have four additional representatives.

The Steering Committee shall appoint the chairperson.

7. Honors Program Policy Committee

The Honors Program Policy Committee shall consider policies and procedures relating to the University's Honors and Scholars Program. The Committee shall consist of seven faculty members appointed by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the

Senate, for staggered three-year terms. The Committee shall consist of seven faculty members appointed by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for staggered three-year terms. The Vice President for Academic Affairs, or his or her designee, and the Director of the Honors and Scholars Program shall be non-voting ex-officio members. The President of Student Government from among present or past participants in a Florida State University honors curriculum shall appoint two undergraduate student members annually.

The chairperson shall be appointed by the Steering Committee from the faculty representatives. The Committee will make its recommendations to the Steering Committee which will transmit the recommendations to the Senate for action.

8. Liberal Studies Coordinating Committee

The Liberal Studies Coordinating Committee shall promote liberal education and the liberal studies program. Its concerns will include the intellectual climate on campus, the institutional concept of liberal learning, and student and faculty perceptions thereof. It will seek to improve the visibility of the academic achievement of students and of academic honor societies. The committee will work through other standing committees and administrative groups to bring about desirable change in both curriculum and public relations. It will not duplicate the functions of other standing committees. It may make recommendations to those committees as well as to the Senate and will undertake a coordinating role.

The Committee shall consist of seven faculty members, appointed by the Steering Committee, who shall serve for two-year staggered terms, including one representative each from the Undergraduate Policy, Graduate Policy, Honors Program Policy and Curriculum Committees. The Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Vice President for Academic Affairs or their designee shall serve as non-voting ex-officio members. The Committee may invite to its meetings representatives of administrative offices and others with responsibility for implementing policies that have direct bearing on the Liberal Studies program. The Steering Committee shall appoint the chair annually from among the faculty representatives.

9. Library Committee

The Library Committee shall consider University-wide policies on general library operations. Members of this Committee shall be appointed by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for staggered three-year terms. Each college or school shall have one representative; the Colleges of Education, Business, and Social Sciences shall each have one additional representative; and the College of Arts and Sciences shall each have four additional representatives. The Vice President for Academic Affairs, or his or her designee, the Dean of the Faculties, or his or her designee, and the Director of University Libraries shall be non-voting ex-officio members; and membership shall include a graduate student and an undergraduate student from different colleges or schools appointed for a one-year term by the President of Student Government.

The Committee shall annually elect its chairperson from the faculty representatives. The Committee will make its recommendations to the Steering Committee which will transmit the recommendations to the Senate for action.

10. Student Academic Relations Committee

The Committee on Student Academic Relations shall hear appeals from students who think that decisions about their academic work have been made improperly or unprofessionally in colleges or schools. The Committee shall consist of five persons appointed annually by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for staggered two-year terms; an undergraduate student member and a graduate student member shall be appointed annually by the President of the University.

The Committee shall elect its chairperson annually from the faculty representatives. The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. It shall also report each term to the Faculty Senate.

11. Teaching Evaluation Committee

The Teaching Evaluation Committee shall consider University-wide policies and procedures relating to the evaluation of teaching, which includes but is not limited to the use of student surveys. The Committee shall consist of nine faculty members appointed by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for staggered three-year terms. The Dean of the Faculties, the Coordinator of Instructional Development, and the Coordinator of Assessment Services shall serve as ex officio members.

The chairperson shall be appointed by the Steering Committee from the faculty representatives. The Committee will make its recommendations to the Steering Committee, which will transmit the recommendations to the Senate for action.

12. Undergraduate Policy Committee

The Undergraduate Policy Committee shall consider University-wide policies on undergraduate academic affairs. Members of this Committee shall be appointed by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for staggered three-year terms. Each college or school shall have a representative; the Colleges of Education, Business, and Social Sciences shall have one additional representative; and the College of Arts and Sciences shall have four additional representatives. The Vice President for Academic Affairs, or his or her designee, and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, or his or her designee, shall be non-voting ex-officio members. The President of Student Government shall appoint an undergraduate student member annually.

The Committee shall elect its chairperson annually from the faculty representatives. The Committee will make its recommendations to the Steering Committee which will transmit the recommendations to the Senate for action.

13. University Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee shall consider curricular policies and procedures at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Committee shall consist of nine faculty members appointed by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for staggered three-year terms. The Dean of the Faculties, or his or her designee, shall be a non-voting ex-officio member.

The Committee shall annually elect its chairperson from the faculty representatives.

14. Standing committees and special committees shall arrange with the Chairperson of the Steering Committee to have their reports placed on the Senate agenda.
15. A committee report, which is on the agenda, should be distributed to the Senate membership at least two days before the Senate meets. Except by unanimous consent of the Senate, a committee report which is not on the agenda shall not be considered for action.
16. Vacancies in standing committees shall be filled by the Steering Committee with the advice and consent of the Senate. In case of elected committees the Steering Committee shall consider first those from the affected college or school who fell just short of election on the most recent usable ballot.

Section H. Amendments

The Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote at any meeting of the Senate provided that the amendment has been introduced at a prior meeting.

Original 1971; Amended December 2004; Amended November 2007; Amended March 2013; Amended November 2014; Amended November 2015; Amended March 2018; Amended December 2020; Amended March 2022;