

## **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.
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.
7. Emergency Powers of the Senate

In extraordinary circumstances, the Senate may declare that it is operating in an emergency mode. In such instances, the Senate may suspend or modify certain university policies that are within its jurisdiction. The Senate shall state the date at which impacted policies are suspended and the date at which they will become effective again. The Senate must approve or renew ongoing suspensions and modifications before the beginning of each semester in which they will be in effect.

### **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 current edition of *The 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 Faculty Senate Coordinator 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. Election of 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 Faculty Senate Coordinator, 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 shall be represented on the Steering Committee and that no more than two Specialized Faculty may serve on the Steering Committee. Names of Senators shall be listed by college or unit. Four members shall be elected for two-year terms in even years and three members for two-year terms in odd years. Unless the immediate past senate president is elected to serve on the steering committee, they shall serve on the committee as a non-voting ex officio member provided they are still a sitting senator.
- 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 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. 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.
- 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 Faculty Senate Coordinator 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 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 in advance.
    - e. The Faculty Senate President will only vote on senate proposals in order to break a tie vote.
  4. Emergency Powers of the Steering Committee
 

During emergency circumstances, or when the full Senate cannot be convened within the available time frame, the Steering Committee may act on behalf of the Senate on appropriate matters. The Senate will be notified of all such actions within one week of their occurrence. The Senate may overturn or modify such action at the next regular or special Senate meeting.

## **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 as

needed 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 University Curriculum Committees; four additional faculty members appointed by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate for staggered three-year terms. The Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement, or his or her designee, shall be an ex-officio member. The Director of the Office of Distance Learning and the Provost and Executive 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.

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 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. When there are no nominations for an open College seat on the Committee, the Steering Committee will seek nominations from the College's Faculty Senator(s). If no Senator responds to such a request within four weeks, the College may forfeit its representation on the Committee until the next appointment cycle.

The Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, or his or her designee, and the Dean of The Graduate School, or his or her designee, shall be non-voting ex-officio members; and membership shall include two graduate student representatives from different colleges 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 Faculty Senate Coordinator, notify each college 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 July 1. Each college 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 curriculum and related policies and procedures for the University's Honors Program and Honors in the Major Program. 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 Undergraduate Studies, or his or her designee, and the Director of the University Honors Program shall be non-voting ex-officio members. The President of Student Government shall appoint annually two undergraduate students from among present or past participants in a Florida State University honors curriculum.

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 and Policy Committee shall promote liberal education and provide oversight for the liberal studies curriculum. The Committee shall consist of nine faculty members, appointed by the Steering Committee, who shall serve for staggered three-year terms, including one representative each from the Undergraduate Policy, Honors Program Policy and University Curriculum Committees. The Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Provost and Executive 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 shall have one representative; the Colleges of Education, Business, and Social Sciences and Public Policy shall each have one additional representative; and the College of Arts and Sciences shall have four additional representatives. When there are no nominations for an open College seat on the Committee, the Steering Committee will seek nominations from the College's Faculty Senator(s). If no Senator responds to such a request within four weeks, the College may forfeit its representation on the Committee until the next

appointment cycle.

The Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, or his or her designee, the Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement, or his or her designee, the Dean of University Libraries, and the directors of the College of Music Allen Music Library, the College of Law Research Center, the College of Medicine Maguire Medical Library, the Harold Goldstein Library, the Dirac Science Library, and the head of Scholars Commons, shall be non-voting ex-officio members; and membership shall include a graduate student and an undergraduate student from different colleges 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. 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 Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. It shall also report each term to the Faculty Senate.

11. Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee shall provide input, expertise, and accountability in service of university decision-making as FSU works toward national leadership in sustainability.

The Committee shall consist of up to nine faculty members appointed by the Steering Committee, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for staggered three-year terms. The Director of Campus Sustainability, or his or her designate, shall be a nonvoting ex-officio member. The Committee chairperson shall appoint annually one student to serve as a nonvoting member. The Committee may also invite to its meetings representatives of administrative offices, students, and others with relevant expertise and implementation responsibilities.

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. 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 Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement, a representative from the Office of Distance Learning, the Director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching, and the Assistant Director of Assessment and Testing shall serve as non-voting ex officio members. Ex officio members contribute important input but do not have voting privileges.

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.

13. Technology Committee

The Technology Committee shall consider how University-wide technology related infrastructure

may impact on academic issues. 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 shall have one representative; the College of Arts and Sciences shall have two representatives. University Libraries shall also have a representative. When there are no nominations for an open College seat on the Committee, the Steering Committee will seek nominations from the College's Faculty Senator(s). If no Senator responds to such a request within four weeks, the College may forfeit its representation on the Committee until the next appointment cycle.

The Associate Vice President for Technology and Chief Information Officer shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member.

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.

#### 14. Torch Awards Committee

The Torch Awards Committee shall consider and recommend recipients for the Torch Awards: VIRES, symbolizing moral, physical, and intellectual strength; ARTES, symbolizing appreciation of beauty; MORES, symbolizing respect for customs, character, and tradition. These awards are presented annually by the Faculty Senate on behalf of the Faculty to recognize those persons who have made significant and sustained contributions to the University's ability to fulfill its academic mission.

The Torch Awards Committee shall consist of no fewer than 7 and not more than 10 members, including ex officio members. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee with the advice and consent of the Senate, for staggered three-year terms and shall include a mix of active and retired faculty. The Faculty Senate President shall appoint a member of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to serve as an ex officio voting member of the Torch Awards committee; in addition, the President of the FSU Foundation, or his/her representative, shall be an ex officio voting member. The committee membership may recommend candidates to fill any vacancies that occur; vacancies shall be filled by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

The chair of the committee shall be appointed by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee from recommendations provided by the Torch Awards Committee membership. If possible, any new chair shall be appointed the Spring preceding the Award selection process.

The committee will accept nominations for the awards and shall recommend recipients for the awards to the Steering Committee, which shall have final confirmation. The letter of nomination should document the nominee's accomplishments and contributions to the University's ability to fulfill its academic mission. There may be multiple recipients for any or all 3 of the awards in any given year; it is also possible that not all 3 categories of award will be given each year. A Torch Award shall not be awarded to current employees of the university.

The Committee may adopt additional procedures and standards as appropriate for fulfilling its charge.

#### 15. 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 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. When there are no nominations for an open College seat on the Committee, the Steering Committee will seek nominations from the College's Faculty Senator(s). If no Senator responds to such a request within four weeks, the College may forfeit its representation on the Committee until the next appointment cycle.



The Provost and Executive 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.

16. University Curriculum Committee

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

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

17. An ad hoc committee appointed by the steering committee will periodically review the bylaws to ensure they are timely, accurate, and reflect current senate practices.
18. Standing committees and special committees shall arrange with the Chairperson of the Steering Committee to have their reports placed on the Senate agenda.
19. 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.
20. 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 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.

Current: October 17, 2007; March 20, 2013; November 12, 2014; October 21, 2015; November 18, 2015; March 21, 2018; November 18, 2020; January 20, 2021; October 20, 2021; November 17, 2021; March 23, 2022; November 30, 2022.