

Constitution of the Faculty Senate

Missouri State University

(Working Document – Draft of Proposed Changes)

PREAMBLE

In order to promote the general welfare of Missouri State University, to effect communication within the faculty of the university as well as between the faculty and the administration, the staff, the students, the alumni, and the Board of Governors; and in order to provide a means of collective action of the faculty in dealing with matters of concern to the Faculty, including matters of curriculum, this Constitution of the Faculty governance is affirmed.

ARTICLE I. CREATION OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The faculty of Missouri State University acknowledge and accept the responsibility and authority for shared governance delegated to it by the Bylaws of the Board of Governors. Faculty governance at Missouri State University shall be defined to include the creation of the Faculty Senate.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The purpose of the Faculty Senate shall be to provide a forum for discussing matters of concern to the Faculty and to inform all segments of the academic community of the Faculty Senate's concerns, findings, and actions.

ARTICLE III. POWERS OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The Faculty Senate shall have the power to establish policy in the areas of authority assigned to the faculty in the Bylaws of the Board of Governors and for such other areas or problems as may be assigned to it by the president of the university or the Board of Governors. Shared governance, as delegated by the Board in the Faculty Handbook, recognizes the essential interdependence of governing boards, administration, faculty, staff, and students. This shared governance is indispensable to the development of educated persons.

The Faculty Senate shall have the power to establish specific functional bodies to carry out powers granted to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate and its established bodies shall have the power to initiate action in such curricular and non-curricular matters as it deems fit, or in such matters as are brought to its attention by one or more members of the faculty.

Faculty Senate Actions, as perfected and passed by the Faculty Senate, represent the collective reasoning of the faculty through its governance process as to policies and procedures to be followed by the University. Every Faculty Senate Action is subject to challenge by the faculty and subject to final approval by the president and, when necessary, by the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE IV. NOMENCLATURE FOR ACADEMIC ENTITIES AND PERSONNEL

~~For brevity and simplicity, the Constitution and Bylaws refer only to academic departments with heads and colleges with deans. Some academic entities and associated personnel (including directors and chairs) do not fit this nomenclature. The Faculty Senate web page (<http://www.missouristate.edu/facultysenate/entities.htm>) indicates how such entities are treated with respect to the curricular process and representation on the Senate and its subcommittees.~~

[Rationale for striking the original Article IV: There were recommendations made to remove this article because this specific language is found in the Bylaws, thus Article IV is an unnecessary redundancy. In addition, if these academic entities change, it is easier for the Faculty Senate to manage their representation by having this article in the Bylaws of the Faculty versus the Constitution. This change will now create a change in Article numbering for the remainder of the Constitution]

ARTICLE V-IV. MEMBERSHIP OF THE FACULTY SENATE

~~There are two classes of membership in the Faculty Senate: voting members (designated as senators) and non-voting members (designated as delegates). The voting membership of the Faculty Senate shall consist of the following senators: the Chair of the Senate; the Chair-Elect of the Senate; the Secretary of the Faculty; representatives of academic departments, one senator from each academic department; one representative from instructors; one representative from senior instructors; one from clinical faculty; and representatives of the ranked faculty, one senator from each rank: (a) assistant professor, (b) associate professor, (c) full or distinguished professor. Eligible department representatives include all ranked faculty, as well as those instructors and clinical faculty who have served no less than two consecutive academic years at Missouri State University by the September session of their term. Ranked faculty refers to tenure-track/tenured Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor or Distinguished Professor. Those who hold administrative appointments at or above head level of academic department are not eligible to serve as senators. Exception to this rule: if an academic department has three or fewer eligible representatives, then the head may serve as senator.~~

Eligible voting members of the Faculty Senate and associated councils, committees, and other established entities, shall be tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty, and non-tenure-track faculty with full-time academic appointments who are located on the Springfield campus of Missouri State University or belong to a college that is based on that campus. Part-time faculty, adjunct and/or per-course faculty, and other non-full-time faculty are not eligible to be voting members of the Faculty Senate, nor any associated councils, committees, and other established entities of the Faculty Senate. When a Parliamentarian is appointed, the Bylaws of the Faculty will identify the individual's membership status and rights within the Faculty Senate and its established entities.

Academic unit leaders, and those administrators above academic unit leaders, regardless of rank held, are not eligible to serve as voting members of the Faculty Senate. An exception will be considered for academic units that would have no voting members if the academic unit leader does not have that status. Additional exceptions to this rule may be made if the

academic unit leader's administrative appointment represents less than 25% of their FTE and a three-quarter (3/4) majority of the elected Senators and elected officers of the Faculty Senate vote via secret ballot to approve the representation.

[Rationale for striking changes to this article – the old Article V, now Article IV: There were recommendations to make substantive changes here because current language is mostly repeated with ART 1 SEC 2 of the Bylaws of the Faculty. Both are not needed, and this is to further differentiate the Constitution and the Bylaws. This article was amended to clearly differentiate faculty from staff and administrators clarifying the kinds of faculty who may serve on the Senate. Additional language was added to clearly articulate any exceptions that may be allowed for a part-time administrator who has limited administrative functions and still primarily functions as non-administrative-level faculty. In addition, specific membership in the Senate, and its councils/committees, (i.e., academic unit representation) should be managed in the Bylaws and will be examined as the Committee on Rules evaluates the Bylaws of the Faculty – no formal decisions have been made up to this point on changes in the Bylaws nor how representation will be decided on the Faculty Senate)]

~~ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS OF THE FACULTY SENATE~~

ARTICLE V. LEADERSHIP AND STRUCTURE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The leadership of the Faculty Senate consists of the officers of the Faculty Senate. The officers of the Faculty Senate shall include the Chair, Chair-elect, and Secretary of the Faculty.

The Faculty Senate includes councils and standing committees. Councils of the Faculty Senate are empowered by the Senate to manage the curriculum review process as described in the Bylaws. The establishment, operation, and specific duties of these councils are described in the Bylaws of the Faculty. Standing committees of the Faculty Senate will manage other areas of authority and tasks assigned to the Faculty Senate as defined by the Bylaws of the Faculty.

[Rationale for striking changes to this article – the old Article VI, now Article V: There were recommendations to further clarify the leadership and combine that language together with the more formal structure of the Faculty Senate; while the leadership and the structure of the Faculty Senate are established in the Constitution, a more detailed explanation of those entities will be discussed in the Bylaws of the Faculty. The specific purpose, membership, election/appointment rules, etc. for Senate councils and committees should be described in the Bylaws of the Faculty]

~~ARTICLE VII. SESSIONS OF THE FACULTY~~

~~The university faculty shall meet at the call of the Board of Governors, of the President of the university, of the Chair of the Faculty Senate, or upon the written petition to the President of the university of not less than ten percent (10%) of the voting faculty. The President of the university, or the President's designee, shall conduct sessions of the university faculty.~~

[Rationale for striking changes to original Articles VII and VIII: The Committee has decided to combine these two articles for clarity to include sessions and meetings, which needed to be clarified and articulated better in the Constitution. This change is primarily to clean up language and provide a clearer picture at what constitutes meetings of the Faculty and sessions of the Faculty Senate. The new article is below and due to the number changes for the articles, the new combined article will be Article VI]

ARTICLE VIII. SESSIONS OF THE FACULTY SENATE

~~SEC 1 The first session of the newly elected Faculty Senate shall be convened within seven (7) school days after the general election of Faculty Senate members.~~

~~SEC 2 During the regular academic year, the Faculty Senate shall be scheduled to meet once a month at a time and place fixed by the Faculty Senate~~

[Rationale for striking changes to original Articles VII and VIII: The Committee has decided to combine these two articles for clarity to include sessions and meetings, which needed to be clarified and articulated better in the Constitution. This change is primarily to clean up language and provide a clearer picture at what constitutes meetings of the Faculty and sessions of the Faculty Senate. The new article is below and due to the number changes for the articles, the new combined article will be Article VI]

ARTICLE VI. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS OF THE FACULTY SENATE

To execute the authority assigned to university faculty by the Board of Governors, the faculty shall operate as a Faculty Senate and meet at least once a month during the academic year at a time and place fixed by this body. This Faculty Senate shall organize monthly meetings of any councils of the Senate, standing committees of the Senate, and any *ad hoc* committees. A full session of the Faculty Senate consists of the monthly Faculty Senate meeting, combined with monthly meetings of all the Senate's councils, standing committees, and *ad hoc* committees.

[Rationale for striking changes to the new Article VI (old Articles VII & VIII combined with new language): This language, as stated previously, is to delineate between meetings of the Faculty (the Faculty Senate meeting, council meetings, standing committee meetings, and ad hoc committee meetings) and what constitutes a session of the Faculty Senate (the combination of all of the meetings in a particular/given month)]

Article ~~IX~~ VII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern sessions of the faculty, the Faculty Senate and established bodies of the Faculty Senate in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with the Bylaws.

[Rationale: Only change here is in the Article number due to the changes earlier in the document.]

Article ~~X~~ VIII. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

There are two classes of constitutional amendments: substantive and non-substantive. A non-substantive amendment includes only editorial and/or terminological changes that do not affect the intent of this Constitution. The rules governing non-substantive amendments to this Constitution are the same as those governing amendments to the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate. Non-substantive amendments are therefore voted upon only by the Faculty Senate. If there is any question as to whether a proposed amendment is substantive, it must be treated as substantive.

A substantive amendment to this Constitution may be proposed by the Faculty Senate or upon petition to the Faculty Senate by at least fifty (50) ~~ranked-faculty~~ **full-time faculty members which will consist of only tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty, and/or non-tenure-track faculty with full-time academic appointments and who would be eligible to be a voting member of the Faculty Senate.** A report, which must include the exact wording of the amendment and a rationale, shall be placed on the agenda of the next Faculty Senate session, unless that would place it on the May agenda, in which case it shall be placed on the September agenda. The report is for information and debate only: the constitutional amendment may not itself be amended in any way on the floor of the Senate, nor may it be withdrawn, nor is it voted upon by the Senate. The report shall be distributed electronically to the faculty on the same day the report is presented to the Senate. ~~Substantive amendments are voted upon electronically by the entire ranked faculty.~~ **Substantive amendments are voted upon electronically by all those faculty of the university who are eligible to serve as voting members of the Faculty Senate and its established entities.** The polls shall open on the first business day not less than thirty (30) days following the report and shall remain open for a total of five (5) business days. An affirmative vote equal to a majority of the votes cast ~~ranked faculty~~ **by all those faculty of the university who are eligible to serve as voting members of the Faculty Senate** shall be necessary to make a proposed substantive amendment part of this Constitution.

[Rationale: Change in Article number due to the changes earlier in the document. For consistency purposes, the language in the three places have been changed to align with other areas of the Constitution that have opened the possibility for more long-term/permanent faculty members to have a voice. In other words, so that both ranked, and long-term/renewable nontenure-track faculty can participate in the petition and the vote.]