

LSU FACULTY SENATE CONSTITUTION

Proposed changes recommended by the LSU Faculty Senate

Policy Committee on March 10, 2023

Article I. Nature and Functions

1. The Faculty Senate shall consist of members of the Faculty Council duly elected in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
2. The Faculty Senate has been delegated the authority of the Faculty Council to establish curricula, fix standards of instruction, determine requirements for degrees, and generally determine educational policy for the University, subject to the authority of the Board of Supervisors and oversight of the Faculty Council, as allowed by the Regulations of the LSU Board of Supervisors, and shall exercise such powers in a manner consistent with the duties of the Faculty Council.~~The Faculty Senate has been delegated the authority of the Faculty Council, as allowed by the Regulations of the LSU Board of Supervisors, and shall exercise such powers in a manner consistent with the duties of the Faculty Council to establish curricula, fix standards of instruction, determine requirements for degrees, and generally determine educational policy for the University, subject to the authority of the LSU Board of Supervisors.~~ Such power shall be exercised by the Senate at any and all times when the Council is not in session. At these times, the~~The~~ Senate shall represent the Council in all matters and shall be deemed to voice the policies, opinions, and sentiments of the Council on any matter within its jurisdiction.
3. In particular, the Faculty Senate may suggest actions, or make inquiries and recommendations to the Provost, LSU Chancellor and/or the LSU President, or through the Council of Faculty Advisors or LSU President to the LSU Board of Supervisors, on any aspect of University life, such as, but not limited to, the following:
 - Conditions affecting academic freedom.
 - Criteria, policies and procedures regarding faculty appointment, conditions of work, dismissal, evaluations, grievances, promotions, tenure, retirement, and salaries.
 - Buildings, equipment, and facilities.
 - The rights and responsibilities of students, and student affairs generally.
 - Criteria and procedures for the selection of the administrative personnel and academic officers of the University.
 - In communication with Faculty Senates, or corresponding bodies, of other campuses: Criteria and procedures for the selection of the LSU Chancellor, or President of the LSU System.
 - The University's role, scope, mission, organization, budget development and planning.

4. The Senate shall consider any matter, within its jurisdiction, on its own initiative or which is brought to its attention by resolution of the Faculty Council; it may consider any matter within its jurisdiction at the request of the University or at the request of a member or members of the Faculty Council.
5. The Senate shall liaise with all other segments of the University community and with other interested groups and individuals.
6. The Senate shall present a report of its activities and actions to the Council at each regular meeting of the Council and at such other time or times as requested by the Council.
7. At any meeting of the Faculty Council, the Council may, by vote of a majority of those present and voting, review, modify, overrule, or otherwise deal with any action taken by the Faculty Senate when the item is on the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. Upon the written request of 50 members or 10 percent of the Faculty Council, whichever is the smaller number, final action of the Senate shall be submitted to the Council for review. Upon written request of a majority of the Senate, any pending matter may be referred to the Faculty Council for final action.

Article II. Membership¹

1. Members of the Faculty Senate shall be elected by the faculty of their respective college, school, or unit designated as an administrative division. There shall be one representative for each 25 members of the Faculty Council, or major fraction thereof, as determined by the Faculty Council census, provided that each college, school, and unit shall have at least one representative.
2. Allocations shall be made by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) using the number of Faculty Council members in each college, school, and unit obtained from Budget and Planning. Any dispute arising from such allocations shall be determined by the Senate.
3. All members of the Faculty Council shall be eligible for election to the Faculty Senate, with the exception of those holding administrative appointments above the level of Department Chair or Head. Eligibility for Faculty Senate membership shall be determined before the election, and questions of eligibility shall be decided by the Elections Committee within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws. In the event that a Senator loses or gives up their eligibility to be elected a Senator, their term shall end with immediate effect, and the vacancy filled by special election.~~All members of the Faculty Council, including those who are department heads or chairs, shall be eligible for election to the Faculty Senate, with the exception of members of the Executive Council other than the President of the Faculty Senate and members of the Council of Academic Deans and Directors. Department heads or chairs may, however, be ineligible for membership on certain Faculty Senate committees, as dictated by the Board of Supervisors Bylaws and Regulations or the Committee Operating Procedures. Eligibility for Faculty Senate membership shall be determined before the election, and questions of eligibility shall be determined by majority vote of the Senate. In the event that any member of the Senate shall terminate membership in the Faculty Council, or shall become a member of the Executive Council, other than the President of the Faculty Senate, or become a member of the Council of Academic Deans and Directors, or shall resign from the Senate,~~

¹Membership qualifications also in Bylaws Articles VI and VIII.

~~the seat shall be declared vacant and appropriate steps shall be taken under the provisions of this Faculty Senate Constitution to fill the vacancy. The Senate may determine continued memberships in the Senate according to the provisions of this Faculty Senate Constitution.~~

4. The term of office of members of the Faculty Senate shall be three years. Terms of office shall begin on the first regular class day of the fall semester. Members elected to fill unexpired terms shall serve until the expiration of the original term.
5. No member of the Faculty Senate shall be eligible to serve another term until one year has elapsed since the date of that member's last service as an elected Senator in the Senate.

Article III. Election of Members²

1. The procedures of nomination and election of members of the Faculty Senate shall be administered by the FSEC⁶ or by ~~a committee~~ ~~persons~~ designated by the FSEC for that purpose. All disputes arising out of the nomination or election of members and not resolved by ~~the FSEC or its designated~~ ~~the election~~ committee ~~of the Senate~~ shall be determined by majority vote of the Senate.
2. The election of members of the Faculty Senate shall be conducted during the month of April in each year, with one-third of the membership to be elected in each year. The Senate shall determine and publish the method of nomination and election of its members in its Bylaws. Each member of the Faculty Council shall at all times be entitled to nominate candidates and to vote for each Senate seat allocated to that member's college, school, or unit.
3. The names of all persons elected to the Faculty Senate, together with their college, school, or unit affiliation, shall be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

Article IV. Officers

1. The Faculty Senate shall elect a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary from the faculty members eligible to be elected to the FSEC as described in the Bylaws (Article VI). The elected term for ~~these~~ ~~President will be two years and for other~~ officers and other elected FSEC members shall be one year or until their successors are elected, with an officer not being able to serve in that office for more than three consecutive terms.
2. The Faculty Senate may create such additional offices as may be deemed necessary or desirable by a two-thirds vote of the Senate ~~amending this Constitution~~.

Article V. Meetings³

1. The Faculty Senate shall hold at least eight meetings during the period from August through May.
2. Special meetings of the Faculty Senate may be called at any time by the President of the Senate and shall be called by the President upon the written request of twenty members or fifteen percent of the authorized membership of the Senate, whichever is fewer.

²~~Member election process also in Bylaws Article VIII.~~

³Meeting procedures also in Bylaws Article I.

3. With unanimous approval by the FSEC or by approval ~~of~~ by twenty members or fifteen percent of the authorized Senate members, whichever is fewer, regularly scheduled and special meetings of the Faculty Senate may be held through internet conferencing software consistent with Louisiana state law ~~if exceptional circumstances or timeliness of business to be conducted prevent in-person meetings.~~
4. Fifty percent of the authorized membership of the Senate shall constitute a quorum⁹ for the transaction of business at a Senate meeting. Faculty Senate Executive Committee members in attendance who are not elected Faculty Senators count toward a quorum, but may not vote on any business items unless they are an ~~elected Senator from their college, school, or unit or the~~ alternate representative for a Faculty Senator from their college, school, or unit for that meeting.
5. Detailed minutes of the proceedings of all meetings shall be recorded and posted on the Faculty Senate website.
6. Normally, final action will not be taken on an item at either a regular or special meeting of the Faculty Senate unless it has previously appeared on an agenda of the Faculty Senate circulated at least three working days in advance to all members of the Faculty Senate.
7. Resolutions announced in the agenda or introduced during a meeting of the Senate normally shall be voted on at the next meeting. However, with a two-thirds vote of those present and comprising a quorum, the Senate may elect to vote on a resolution during the meeting at which it was introduced.
8. Meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be open to the public. Members of the public can make comments only on agenda items and only during ~~at~~ the designated period ~~agenda item~~ of public comments after giving advance notice that they intend to make a public comments. Members of the Senate, Faculty Council, administration, and guests may speak on agenda items in the due course of a meeting ~~when acknowledged by the presiding officer.~~
9. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, except where these rules are superseded by this Constitution or the Bylaws of this Senate or Louisiana law.

Article VI. Committees

1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate (FSEC) composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and three other members elected by the Senate. The immediate Past President shall serve as an ex officio member on the Executive Committee. During any given academic year, not more than two of the six voting members of the Executive Committee may be from the same college, school, or unit.
2. The FSEC shall implement policy as directed by the Senate. In addition, it shall represent the Senate in dealings with University officials and others, set and approve the agenda for Senate meetings, and appoint all non-elected members of Senate committees. The FSEC Executive Committee is empowered to act for the Senate on issues that require an immediate response or action. The full Senate shall receive notification of such action at or before its next meeting.

3. From the end of the spring semester to the first fall class day, the FSEC will consist of the current year members and the elected members for the next academic year. All members of the FSEC shall have voting privileges during this period.
4. The Faculty Senate shall have other standing and special committees as may be created by the FSEC, or by action of the Faculty Senate.
5. ~~Any member of the Faculty Council, Executive Council, Council of Academic Deans and Directors, and the student body is eligible for appointment to any committee of the Faculty Senate, unless specifically excluded by the committee membership as defined in the Faculty Senate Bylaws or specified in the Committee Operating Procedures. All chairs of committees shall be faculty members. Members of the Executive Council (other than the President of the Faculty Senate) and members of the Council of Academic Deans and Directors are ineligible to serve as chairs of Faculty Senate committees.~~
5. Voting members of Faculty Senate committees shall be Faculty Council members not holding administrative appointments at the level of department chair or above.
6. ~~The FSEC Advisory Committee consists of FSEC members, chairs of each Faculty Senate Standing Committee, and the two most recent past Faculty Senate Presidents and will meet at least quarterly and at other times as deemed appropriate by majority vote of the FSEC.~~

Article VII. Amendments

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Faculty Senate or by any member of the Faculty Council.
2. Amendments to this Constitution shall become effective upon adoption by the Faculty Council by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Faculty Council present and voting at athe meeting and comprising a quorum. Amendments may also become effective upon adoption by any other method of balloting consistent with Louisiana state law~~mail or electronic ballot~~ in which twenty-five per cent of the Faculty Council responds and two-thirds of those responding approve.
3. The FSEC shall review this Constitution and Bylaws every year that ends in zero or five and make appropriate recommendations for any needed revisions.