

DRAFT

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE UNIVERSITY SENATE BY-LAWS TO ADD 12-YEAR TERM LIMITS FOR SENATORS AND TERM LIMITS FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

WHEREAS the University Senate endorses the “carefully considered recommendation” of the Senate Review Committee to “establish 12-year term limits for Senators, aligned with those for Trustees.”

WHEREAS the University Senate recognizes “the importance of balancing the value of institutional memory with the importance of democratic turnover” regarding University Senate Committee leadership.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate approves the updates to the University Senate By-Laws, aligned with the By-Laws of the Trustees, as set out, below.

SEC. 3: ELECTORAL CAUCUSES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Establishment of Electoral Caucuses. There shall be the following Electoral Caucuses: Tenured Faculty Caucus, TTOT Faculty Caucus, Student Caucus, and Research Officer Caucus.
2. Other Caucuses: Nothing in Section 3 of these By-Laws shall preclude the establishment of other Senate entities that use the word “Caucus” in their name.
3. The composition and jurisdiction of the several electoral caucuses shall be as follows:
 - a. Tenured Faculty Caucus. The Tenured Faculty Caucus shall consist of all members of the Senate elected pursuant to Section 20.b.1 of the Statutes of the University. The Tenured Faculty Caucus shall select members of the Executive Committee, as specified in Section 3.d. of these By-Laws, and shall conduct other business as appropriate
 - b. TTOT Faculty Caucus. The TTOT Faculty Caucus shall consist of all members of the Senate elected pursuant to Section 20(b)(2) of the Statutes of the University. The TTOT Faculty Caucus shall select members of the Executive Committee, as specified in Section 3.d. of these By-Laws, and shall conduct other business as appropriate.
 - c. Student Caucus. The Student Caucus shall consist of all members of the Senate elected pursuant to Section 20(c) of the Statutes of the University. The Student Caucus shall select members of the

Executive Committee, as specified in Section 3.d. of these By- Laws, and shall conduct other business as appropriate.

d. The Research Officer Caucus. The Research Officer Caucus shall consist of all members of the Senate elected pursuant to Section 20.f. of the Statutes of the University. The Research Officer Caucus shall select a member of the Executive Committee, as specified in Section 3.d. of these By-Laws, and shall conduct other business as appropriate.

4. Composition of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of 15 members apportioned as follows: 1 tenured faculty member who shall be Chair, 1 tenured faculty member who shall be Vice Chair, 5 additional tenured faculty, 2 TTOT faculty, 1 research officer, 2 administrators, and 3 students. All shall be members of the Senate. The two administration representatives shall be the President and another officer of administration of their choice. Elected members of the Executive Committee, except for the Chair and Vice Chair, shall be chosen by the appropriate electoral caucuses established in Section 3.a. of these By-Laws.
5. Powers of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be the Senate's agenda committee and its committee on committees. It may authorize standing committees without regular and recurring duties, if they request to be put on a stand-by basis, to meet once a semester and otherwise be on the call of the Senate or the Executive Committee or of a majority of the Committee concerned as the need for the activity of such committees may arise. The Executive Committee shall have the power to call the Senate into extraordinary session, and shall have such powers, functions and duties as the Senate may delegate to it during periods when the Senate is not in session.
6. Liaison with central administration. The Executive Committee shall serve as a continuing liaison between the University Senate and the central administration. The Executive Committee may create subcommittees and may delegate any of its powers, functions, and duties. The Executive Committee shall participate pursuant to the Statutes of the University and the By-Laws of the Trustees, in the selection of University Professors, the President of the University, the Provost or Provosts, and six Trustees. In performing these functions, the Executive Committee or the appropriate subcommittee thereof shall act in executive session and in a confidential manner and shall not be required to report its deliberations or actions to the Senate as a whole.
7. Recognition of service. To the extent possible, officers of instruction may be allowed a reduction in their teaching loads and students may be granted appropriate credit for serving as members of the Executive Committee.

8. In the spring of each odd-numbered year, the Senate shall nominate and elect the Chair of the Committee and shall nominate and elect the Vice Chair of the Committee. Both officers shall take office on the following September 1. A candidate for Chair or Vice Chair must be a member of the Tenured Caucus at the time of their nomination. In addition, they must have served on the Senate at least two years in the immediately preceding four years. Each nomination shall require a petition signed by at least six current members of the Senate, at least 3 of whom shall be members of the Tenured Caucus and at least 2 of whom shall not be members of the Tenured Caucus. The Elections Commission shall prescribe the format and timing of the nominations. The current members of the Senate shall elect the Chair and the Vice Chair by confidential electronic ballot as prescribed and supervised by the Elections Commission. A separate ballot shall be used for each position, and votes shall be tallied separately for each position. Each ballot shall include an option to abstain.
9. Vacancies. If the position of chair becomes vacant the Vice Chair shall become Chair for the remainder of the term of the Chair. If the position of Vice Chair becomes vacant, the remaining members of the Executive Committee, voting as a whole, shall select an interim Vice Chair until a new Vice Chair is elected for the remainder of the term of the Vice Chair. The election shall be held as soon as possible on a date determined by the Elections Commission. In the event of any other vacancies in the Executive Committee other than the Chair or Vice Chair, a new member shall be selected in the same way that the departing member was selected and shall serve for the unexpired term.
10. Term limits:
 - a. Chair of the Executive Committee

No person shall be elected as chair of the Executive Committee more than three consecutive times. A person who becomes ineligible to be elected as chair because of the number of consecutive times that they have been elected shall not become eligible to become chair or vice chair until at least one year has elapsed since the completion of their previous term.
 - b. Vice Chair of the Executive Committee

No person shall be elected Vice Chair of the Executive Committee more than three consecutive times. A person who becomes ineligible to be elected as Vice Chair because of the number of consecutive times they have been elected shall not become eligible to be elected as Vice Chair until at least one year has elapsed since the completion of their previous term.
 - c. Chairs of Committees

No person shall be elected as Chair of a Committee more than three consecutive terms. A person who becomes ineligible to be elected as chair because of the number of consecutive terms that they have been elected shall not become eligible to become chair until at least one year has elapsed since the completion of their previous term.

d. Senators

No person may serve as a Senator for more than 12 years, unless the University Senate shall determine in its sole discretion that such Senator's years of consecutive service as Senator shall be extended for a period or periods to be determined by the University Senate from time to time.

Proponent:

Executive Committee