

Academic Senate

Proposed Resolution 19 20-03

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4 WHEREAS the Academic Senate Constitution provides that the Academic Senate "is the
5 representative body of the faculty at large for university-wide issues," that it "acts
6 through its Executive Board." The Constitution further states that the Executive Board's
7 duties include referring topics to faculty and University committees, reviewing and
8 making recommendations based on committee reports, and acting as "the channel of
9 communication between the Academic Senate and the administrative officers of the
10 university";

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12 WHEREAS the Senate Constitution currently states that the members of the Executive
13 Board are elected by the "voting members of the Senate," not by all members of the
14 faculty at large;

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16 WHEREAS changing to a direct election system in which all members of the faculty at
17 large can vote for members of the Executive Board may increase awareness of the Senate
18 and strengthen faculty engagement with the work of the Senate;

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20 WHEREAS the Senate has a "Nominating Committee," which is explicitly charged with
21 identifying at least two qualified candidates for each open Executive Board position;

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23 WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has also historically been informally charged
24 with ensuring that the Executive Board ballot includes a diverse array of candidates—
25 including candidates from all faculty tracks, from large and small schools, from a variety
26 of disciplines, and who represent different genders, races, religions, and sexual
27 orientations—and the Nominating Committee has generally sought to identify candidates
28 to be Executive Board officers who have past experience in leadership roles, either at the
29 school or university level;

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31 WHEREAS in November 2018, the Senate Constitution and Bylaws were amended to
32 give all faculty greater opportunity to participate in faculty governance by allowing all
33 members of the faculty at large to nominate "write-in" candidates to serve as members of
34 the Executive Board;

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36 WHEREAS the Senate recognizes that write-in nominations that do not go through the
37 Nominating Committee's vetting process risk creating a slate of candidates that is not as
38 well-balanced and diverse;

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40 WHEREAS the participation of faculty can be promoted by requiring the Nominating
41 Committee to widely publicize the fact of the Executive Board elections and by inviting
42 faculty to provide the Committee with the names of possible candidates to be vetted;

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44 WHEREAS there is currently a contradiction between the 2019 Faculty Handbook Ch. 2,
45 section 2-B (1), which defines the "Faculty Assembly" as the "faculty at large," and the

46 Senate Constitution, which currently defines the “Faculty Assembly” as limited to “full-
47 time” faculty;

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49 Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that:

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51 1. The Senate Constitution Art. II, sec. 1, shall be amended (consistent with Chapter 2,
52 section B-1 of the Faculty Handbook) to state that the Faculty Assembly “consists of all
53 faculty”;

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55 2. To create a direct election system in which all members of the faculty at large can
56 vote for members of the Executive Board, the Senate Constitution shall be amended as
57 follows:

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59 a. Article VI, Section 3 shall be amended to state, “Executive officers
60 and Members at Large of the Executive Board are elected by the Faculty
61 Assembly in the spring. The Academic Senate will provide for the nomination
and election process by Bylaw.”

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63 b. Article VI, Section 7 shall be amended to state, “[t]he Faculty
64 Assembly shall elect the executive officers of the faculty and the Members at
Large of the Executive Board.”

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66 3. To promote broad faculty engagement in governance, while also ensuring a
67 balanced, diverse slate of candidates for the Executive Board election, the Senate
Bylaws shall be amended as follows:

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a. Senate Bylaw 11 shall be amended to state:

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70 The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of at least two candidates for
71 each office for which there will be an election (i.e., the Academic Vice-
72 President, the Administrative Vice-President, the Secretary General, and each
73 position of Member-At-Large of the Executive Board.) The Nominating
74 Committee may not nominate any of its members. Additional nominations for
75 an office are permissible with the signed endorsement of a minimum of five
76 supporting Academic Senate members and prior agreement from the nominee
77 that the individual will serve if elected. Additional nominations for Member-At-
78 Large positions are permissible with the signed endorsement of a minimum of
79 ten supporting faculty, with no more than five of the endorsements being from
80 any one school. Prior agreement from the nominee that the individual will serve
81 if elected is required. Each faculty member can endorse a maximum of four
82 faculty nominees for Member-At-Large positions. Nominations shall be
83 submitted in the manner, with the information, and within the deadlines,
prescribed in the standing rules.

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b. Senate Bylaw 14 shall be amended to state:

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86 Elections will take place by electronic ballot distributed to the Faculty Assembly,
87 using software that protects the anonymity of the voter. The ballot will include the

88 names of all who have been properly nominated and who have agreed to run for
89 office.

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91 Each member of the Faculty Assembly may cast one vote for each open seat on
92 the ballot. The election will be determined by simple plurality. Ties will be
93 broken by having a run-off election in which the voting members of the Senate
94 will choose between the candidates who previously tied.

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96 c. Senate Bylaw 17 shall be amended in relevant part to state:

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98 2. Additional Nominations

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100 The Nominating Committee shall propose a slate of officers for the Executive
101 Board for the next year. The Nominating Committee is charged with advertising
102 widely the elections and with seeking out a wide variety of candidates reflecting
103 diversity across all the relevant dimensions. The Nominating Committee shall aim
104 to ensure an Executive Board where Schools are represented in approximately the
105 same proportions as in the Senate itself. As prescribed by Bylaw 11, additional
106 nominations are permissible with the signed endorsements of five Academic
107 Senate members and prior agreement that the nominee will serve if elected.
108 Additional nominations for Member At Large positions are permissible with the
109 signed endorsement of a minimum of ten supporting faculty, with no more than
110 five of the endorsements being from any one school. Prior agreement from the
111 nominee that the individual will serve if elected is required. Each faculty member
112 can endorse a maximum of four faculty nominees for Member-At-Large positions.
113 The calendar prepared by the Academic Senate office shall state the date by
114 which such nominations must be received.

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117 Resolution Number: 19 20-03
118 Date: Nov. 20, 2019

Motion by: Executive Board
(No second required when moved by committee)