

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

**Academic Senate**  
**Proposed Resolution 19 20-03**

Changes from the original draft are underlined

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

WHEREAS the Senate Constitution currently states that the members of the Executive Board are elected by the “voting members of the Senate,” not by all members of the faculty at large;

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

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

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

**CHANGE TO:** WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has also been informally charged with ensuring that the Executive Board ballot includes a diverse array of candidates—considering the candidates’ faculty tracks, disciplines, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and school size—and has sought to identify candidates to be Executive Board officers who have past experience in leadership roles, either at the school or university level;

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

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

WHEREAS the participation of faculty can be promoted by requiring the Nominating Committee to widely publicize the fact of the Executive Board elections and by inviting faculty to provide

47 the Committee with the names of possible candidates to be vetted;

48

49 WHEREAS there is currently a contradiction between the 2019 Faculty Handbook Ch. 2, section  
50 2-B (1), which defines the “Faculty Assembly” as the “faculty at large,” and the Senate  
51 Constitution, which currently defines the “Faculty Assembly” as limited to “full-time” faculty;

52

53 **CHANGE TO:** WHEREAS there is currently a contradiction between the Handbook and  
54 the Senate Constitution concerning the composition of the Faculty Assembly. The  
55 Faculty Handbook Ch. 2, section 2-B (1) defines “Faculty Assembly” as the “faculty at  
56 large,” without limiting it to full-time faculty. In addition, Faculty Handbook 4-C(2)(c)  
57 states, “Part-time faculty are eligible to be elected or appointed to faculty governance  
58 bodies” By contrast, the Senate Constitution, Article III, Section 1 states that “The  
59 membership of the Faculty Assembly consists of all full-time faculty members (tenured  
60 and tenure-track faculty, non-tenure-track faculty, and librarians), and those who have  
61 retired from these positions.”

62

63 WHEREAS part-time faculty currently participate in voting for Faculty Councils and  
64 Senators in at least 13 USC Schools;

65

66 Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that:

67

68 1. The Senate Constitution Art. II, sec. 1, shall be amended (consistent with Chapter 2, section B-  
69 1 of the Faculty Handbook) to state that the Faculty Assembly “consists of all faculty”;

70

71 **CHANGE TO:** The Senate Constitution Art. II, sec. 1, and Senate Constitution, Article  
72 III, Section 1, shall be amended to state that the Faculty Assembly “consists of the faculty  
73 at large, including all full- and part-time faculty members (tenured and tenure-track  
74 faculty, RTPC faculty, and librarians), and those who have retired from these positions.”

75

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

78

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

82

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

85

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

89

90 a. Senate Bylaw 11 shall be amended to state:

91

92 The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of at least two candidates for each office

93 for which there will be an election (i.e., the Academic Vice- President, the Administrative  
94 Vice-President, the Secretary General, and each position of Member-At-Large of the  
95 Executive Board.) The Nominating Committee may not nominate any of its members.  
96 Additional nominations for an office are permissible with the signed endorsement of a  
97 minimum of five supporting Academic Senate members and prior agreement from the  
98 nominee that the individual will serve if elected. Additional nominations for Member-At-  
99 Large positions are permissible with the signed endorsement of a minimum of ten  
100 supporting faculty, with no more than five of the endorsements being from any one  
101 school. Prior agreement from the nominee that the individual will serve if elected is  
102 required. Each faculty member can endorse a maximum of four faculty nominees for  
103 Member-At-Large positions. Nominations shall be submitted in the manner, with the  
104 information, and within the deadlines, prescribed in the standing rules.

105  
106 b. Senate Bylaw 14 shall be amended to state:

107  
108 Elections will take place by electronic ballot distributed to the Faculty Assembly, using  
109 software that protects the anonymity of the voter. The ballot will include the names of all  
110 who have been properly nominated and who have agreed to run for office. Each member  
111 of the Faculty Assembly may cast one vote for each open seat on the ballot. The election  
112 will be determined by simple plurality. Ties will be broken by having a run-off election in  
113 which the voting members of the Senate will choose between the candidates who  
114 previously tied.

115  
116 c. Senate Bylaw 17 shall be amended in relevant part to state:

117  
118 2. Additional Nominations: The Nominating Committee shall propose a slate of officers  
119 for the Executive Board for the next year. The Nominating Committee is charged with  
120 advertising widely the elections and with seeking out a wide variety of candidates  
121 reflecting diversity across all the relevant dimensions. The Nominating Committee shall  
122 aim to ensure an Executive Board where Schools are represented in approximately the  
123 same proportions as in the Senate itself. As prescribed by Bylaw 11, additional  
124 nominations are permissible with the signed endorsements of five Academic Senate  
125 members and prior agreement that the nominee will serve if elected. Additional  
126 nominations for Member At Large positions are permissible with the signed endorsement  
127 of a minimum of ten supporting faculty, with no more than five of the endorsements  
128 being from any one school. Prior agreement from the nominee that the individual will  
129 serve if elected is required. Each faculty member can endorse a maximum of four faculty  
130 nominees for Member-At-Large positions. The calendar prepared by the Academic  
131 Senate office shall state the date by which such nominations must be received.

132  
133 Resolution Number: 19 20-03

134 Motion by: Executive Board Date: Nov. 20, 2019

135 (No second required when moved by committee)