

**Academic Senate  
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 through its  
6 Executive Board.” The Constitution further states that the Executive Board’s duties include  
7 referring topics to faculty and University committees, reviewing and making recommendations  
8 based on committee reports, and acting as “the channel of communication between the Academic  
9 Senate and the administrative officers of the university”;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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39 WHEREAS there is currently a contradiction between the Handbook and the Senate Constitution  
40 concerning the composition of the Faculty Assembly. The Faculty Handbook Ch. 2, section 2-B  
41 (1) defines “Faculty Assembly” as the “faculty at large,” without limiting it to full-time faculty.  
42 In addition, Faculty Handbook 4-C(2)(c) states, “Part-time faculty are eligible to be elected or  
43 appointed to faculty governance bodies” By contrast, the Senate Constitution, Article III, Section  
44 1 states that “The membership of the Faculty Assembly consists of all full-time faculty members  
45 (tenured and tenure-track faculty, non-tenure-track faculty, and librarians), and those who have  
46 retired from these positions.”

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

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51 Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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88 b. Senate Bylaw 14 shall be amended to state:

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90 Elections will take place by electronic ballot distributed to the Faculty Assembly, using  
91 software that protects the anonymity of the voter. The ballot will include the names of all  
92 who have been properly nominated and who have agreed to run for office. Each member

93 of the Faculty Assembly may cast one vote for each open seat on the ballot. The election  
94 will be determined by simple plurality. Ties will be broken by having a run-off election in  
95 which the voting members of the Senate will choose between the candidates who  
96 previously tied.  
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98 c. Senate Bylaw 17 shall be amended in relevant part to state:  
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100 2. Additional Nominations: The Nominating Committee shall propose a slate of officers  
101 for the Executive Board for the next year. The Nominating Committee is charged with  
102 advertising widely the elections and with seeking out a wide variety of candidates  
103 reflecting diversity across all the relevant dimensions. The Nominating Committee shall  
104 aim 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 Senate  
107 members and prior agreement that the nominee will serve if elected. Additional  
108 nominations for Member At Large positions are permissible with the signed endorsement  
109 of a minimum of ten supporting faculty, with no more than five of the endorsements  
110 being from any one school. Prior agreement from the nominee that the individual will  
111 serve if elected is required. Each faculty member can endorse a maximum of four faculty  
112 nominees for Member-At-Large positions. The calendar prepared by the Academic  
113 Senate office shall state the date by which such nominations must be received.  
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115 Resolution Number: 19/20-03

Motion by: Executive Board

116 Date: Dec. 11, 2019

(No second required when moved by committee)

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118 Action taken: passed with 30 in favor, 7 opposed, and 2 abstentions.