

**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 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

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

117 (No second required when moved by committee)