

Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of Austin Peay State University

The University faculty for purposes of this document shall consist of all full-time and part-time university employees ~~holding the rank of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor, and whose duties are in excess of fifty percent in the following areas: teaching, scholarly research, library service, or academic departmental administration~~ in alignment with APSU policy 2.045, for the definition of faculty ~~“Faculty Definitions,”~~ in addition to adjunct faculty.

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Article I Meeting Procedures

Section A. The Agenda Will be Limited To:

1. all items for discussion or vote that are submitted in writing or by email to a member of executive committee by senators at least four (4) days before the Faculty Senate’s meeting.
2. those motions or items prepared by the Executive Committee.
3. approved amendments to the agenda.
4. reports from standing and *ad hoc* committees requiring action or request for advice.
5. an address by the President or the President’s designee normally not to exceed 15 minutes.
6. an address by the Provost or the Provost’s designee normally not to exceed 15 minutes.

Section B. Before Full Senate Meetings

1. The Senate President shall meet and confer weekly with the President and Provost of the University to convey relevant investigative studies of the Senate.
2. The Executive Committee shall prepare a tentative agenda for each full Senate meeting by:
 - a. Assembling items for action or advice and determining the order of their presentation to the Senate and the length of debate for each item.
 - b. Sending copies of the proposed agenda, together with all scheduled motions, to each faculty member at least two (2) working days before full Senate meeting
3. Standing and *ad hoc* committees shall, as their deliberations warrant, send written or electronic reports to the Executive Committee. If a committee is ready to recommend an action to the Senate, that request must take the form of a motion.

4. Senators who wish to debate or discuss any matter shall prepare a written item. Items must be in an appropriate format such as paper or in an appropriate electronic format. These items shall be sent to the Executive Committee for scheduling at least four (4) working days before the Senate meeting. If a senator wishes the Senate to consider an item after the agenda has been prepared, the senator may bring it in paper or an appropriate electronic format to a full Senate meeting and file it with the chair before the opening of business. Then, when the chair moves for the acceptance of the agenda, the senator should propose an amendment to the agenda to include the new agenda item.

Section C. Full Senate Meetings

1. The first item of business of every Senate meeting shall be the acceptance or modification of the proposed agenda by simple majority vote. Also, at any point in the proceeding after the acceptance of the agenda, any senator can, as a point of privilege, suggest an amendment to the agenda in order to lengthen or shorten debate, to include a motion, or to omit an item from the agenda. Such a proposal, made after the acceptance of the agenda, must be seconded and requires a simple majority vote.
2. The suggested agenda format shall be as follows:
 - a. motion by the chair to accept the agenda-
 - b. motion by the chair to accept minutes from the previous meeting-
 - c. address by the President of the University or the President's designee-
 - d. address by the Provost of the University or the Provost's designee-
 - e. items of the agenda will be taken up in the order within the time limits established, unless a motion for amendment of agenda passes-
 - f. if there is time remaining at the conclusion of the agenda, the chair may, at its discretion, present information, entertain unscheduled motions, or discuss items for the agenda of forthcoming sessions, acknowledging that a motion to adjourn from any senator is always in order-
3. Rules for Conducting Orderly Meetings
The Faculty Senate shall conduct business under Robert's Rules of Order. Variation from Robert's Rules of Orders will require a motion from the floor, duly seconded, carrying a 2/3 majority of the Senate present at the time of the motion. The motion for suspension must specifically state that Robert's Rules of Order is to be suspended for the purposes of dealing with the issue under discussion for a limited time specified in the motion of suspension. A Parliamentarian will assist with ~~the orderly~~ conducting orderly meetings.

Article II Quorum

Section A. Those senators present at a regular meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section B. At any called meeting, a majority of senators shall constitute a quorum.

Section C. Only senators in attendance may vote on matters before the Senate. No voting by proxy will be allowed.

Article III Attendance

Section A. Regular meetings of the Faculty Senate are open. The Faculty Senate reserves the right to go into executive session by a majority vote of members present or to be called into executive session by the Senate Executive Committee.

Section B. Attendance of executive sessions by anyone other than current faculty senators shall require a majority vote for approval.

Section C. The ~~office seat~~ of any senator who has missed four (4) meetings in an academic year shall be declared vacant and an election shall be conducted to fill the ~~office seat~~. Senators will be notified by the Secretary of the Faculty Senate after they miss the third meeting, that if they miss a fourth meeting their senate seat will become vacant. Faculty Senate will adhere to federal law (including the Family Medical Leave Act) and university policies (including APSU Policy 5:034 Paid Parental Leave) regarding attendance.

Section D. Senators elected to an interim term will serve the remainder of the vacant term, beginning on the first day of the month following the interim election.

Section E. Senators may attend meetings remotely if prior remote work accommodation has been approved by HR and/or approved by the Provost and subsequently vetted by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

~~**Section F.** The seats of senators on sabbatical shall be filled by other faculty members for the duration of the sabbatical through the normal election or interim election process.~~

Article IV Procedures for the Election of Senate Officers

Section A. The ~~Nomination~~ Faculty Senate Officer Nomination~~Slate~~ Committee will consist of the immediate past Senate President and two outgoing senators selected by the immediate past Senate President. The Faculty Senate Slate Committee shall accept nominations for each Faculty Senate Officer position defined in the Constitution of the Faculty Senate from any faculty member, including self-nominations from any faculty member, including self-nominations. In addition, this committee will take nominations for Faculty Senate Representatives on the University Curriculum Committee and the Provost's Council. The Representative positions shall be current members of the Faculty Senate.

~~The Senate Executive Committee will approve the Nominations before the regular April meeting. This ad hoc committee shall nominate at the regular May meeting at least one person for each of the Senate offices, after having secured an approval from all of those to be nominated.~~

Section B. After having secured approval from all those nominated, the Faculty Senate Officer Nomination Committee will ensure that at least one person is nominated for each position, and will ensure that no person is nominated for more than one position. Further, this committee shall recommend to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee one candidate for each position for their endorsement. At the regular April meeting, the Faculty Senate Officer Nomination Committee will present all nominations and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will present their endorsements. ~~In addition to the offices identified in the Constitution, this ad hoc committee shall be responsible for nominating individuals to serve as Faculty Senate Representatives on the University Curriculum Committee and the Provost's Council. The Faculty Senate Representatives on the University Curriculum Committee and the Provost's Council shall be current members of the Faculty Senate.~~

Section C. ~~Other nominations shall be possible from the floor at~~ the regular May meeting ~~additional: n~~ Nominations shall be taken from the floor prior to voting. Nominations for the office of President will only be accepted in the case that the current Vice President/President-Elect is unwilling ~~or cannot to~~ serve as President in the upcoming year.

Section D. Election to a Faculty Senate Officer or Representative position will require a majority of votes cast. If no candidate for a particular position received a majority of the votes cast, then the two candidates with the largest number of votes will be identified, and a runoff election will immediately be held. The office of any executive committee member who has missed eight (8) meetings in an academic year shall be declared vacant and the remaining executive committee members will appoint a current senator to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the vacated term.

Section E. Recognizing the substantial time requirement of the following officer positions, ~~release~~ ~~reassign~~ time for faculty senate officers will be as follows:

1. President: ~~three~~ six hours fall semester and ~~three~~ ~~threesix~~ three hours spring semester
2. Vice President/President Elect: ~~Tsix hours fall semester and~~ three hours spring semester
3. Secretary: three hours fall semester and three hours spring semester.

Article V Standing Committees for the Senate

Section A. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate shall be composed of the President, Vice President/President Elect, the Secretary of the Faculty Senate, the Treasurer of the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate Representative on the Provost's Council, the Faculty Senate Representative on the University Curriculum Committee, and a Member-at-Large (elected from and by the Faculty Senate). The faculty member serving on the APSU Board of Trustees and the Parliamentarian shall be non voting a members ~~ex officio members~~, ~~with voice but no vote~~ on the Executive Committee. In addition, the Immediate Past-President of the Faculty Senate, provided such person currently serves as a faculty member at Austin Peay State University, ~~will~~ shall be non voting a member ~~ex officio member~~, ~~with voice but no vote~~ on the Executive Committee. The Faculty Senate President will be a tenured faculty member. The Faculty Senate Vice President/President Elect shall serve a one-year term and become the next Faculty Senate President. In the event that the Vice President/President Elect chooses not to succeed the President, an election for both President and Vice President/President Elect will follow Article IV Procedures for the Election of Senate Officers.

The responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

1. To propose the agenda for Faculty Senate meetings,
2. To conduct the elections to the Faculty Senate
 - General officers to be elected are identified in Article II, Section III of the Constitution.
 - Additional officers may be added or removed on an as-needed basis by amending these Bylaws as stipulated in Article VII Adoption and Amendments to Bylaws
3. To recommend to the Faculty Senate for its advice and consent, individuals to serve on the various committees of the Faculty Senate. Committee and subcommittee chairs should be recommended after obtaining their agreement to serve. These recommendations should be accomplished at the first regular meeting of the Senate after the election of the new

Executive Board, which will be the June Senate meeting unless the Senate votes not to hold regular meetings during summer terms of the academic year,

4. To advise the President of the Faculty Senate,
5. To act on behalf of the Faculty Senate ad interim and to report such actions to the next meeting of the Faculty Senate for its approval, and
6. To monitor the progress of standing and *ad hoc* committees.
7. In the event that a member of the Executive Committee must relinquish the position mid-term, the remaining members of the Executive Committee will appoint a current senator to fill the position for the remainder of the term.

Section B. Rules Committee

The Rules committee shall be chaired by the Vice President/[President Elect](#) of the Faculty Senate. In addition, two senators and two former senators shall serve on the committee. The responsibilities of the committee are as follows:

1. To study and recommend changes in the Constitution of the Faculty Senate and the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate,
2. To recommend to the Faculty Senate changes in its standing committee structure and function and,
3. To study the representation in the Faculty Senate according to the specifications in the Constitution and notify the Executive committee by February 15 of each year the number of senators to be elected in each area.

Section C. Academic Committees

The Committees of the Senate dealing with Academic issues shall be designated as *Academic Red* and *Academic White*.

Each Academic committee shall consist of no more than seven (7) members. Academic Red and White Committees shall consist of at least one member who is untenured. The President of the Senate may suspend the requirement and appoint members of both committees without regard to tenure status if, in the Senate President's judgment, circumstances dictate. The duties of these committees include:

1. To study and evaluate curricula ~~and~~, instruction, [and student success initiatives](#) at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This function includes problems ~~related to~~ [including, but not limited to:](#)
 - Teaching loads;
 - Class size;
 - Use of graduate and undergraduate assistants;
 - Admissions;
 - Retention and advancing standing of students; ~~and~~
 - [Advising;](#)
 - [Mentorship;](#)
 - [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and](#)
 - Testing and grading practices.
2. To strive to foster a proper balance between teaching and research.

The Executive Committee may choose to form subcommittees of Academic Committees which would report their findings and recommendations to the Academic Committee for approval before any requests or recommendations for action would be presented to the Senate.

Section D. Faculty Committees

The Committees of the Senate dealing with Faculty issues shall be designated as *Faculty Red* and *Faculty White*.

Each Faculty committee shall consist of no more than seven (7) members. Faculty Red and White Committees shall consist of at least one member who is untenured. The President of the Senate may suspend the requirement and appoint members of both committees without regard to tenure status if, in the Senate President's judgment, circumstances dictate. The duties of the committees shall be to study intra-campus matters related to faculty interests not under the jurisdiction of other standing committees.

The Executive Committee may choose to form subcommittees of the Faculty Committees which would report their findings and recommendations to the Faculty Committee for approval before any requests or recommendations for action would be presented to the Senate.

Section E. Service Recommendation~~Nominations and Elections~~ Committee

The Nominations and Elections Committee shall consist of at least five (5) senators. The Committee shall make, subject to approval of the Senate, nominations and conduct elections which are requested by persons or groups outside the Senate. The duties of the Committee shall be to:

1. Seek nominations from colleges, subject to approval by the Nominations and Elections Committee, and conduct the elections for the faculty representatives on the University Curriculum Committee, and
2. Recommend to the President of the University individuals to serve on University Standing Committees and *ad hoc* committees.

Section F. Faculty Representation on Senate

Representation in the Faculty Senate shall be based on a ratio of one senator per seven faculty members (or every major fraction thereof, excluding adjuncts) as identified by College or Unit. For the purpose of faculty representation on Senate, faculty in administrative positions who are not assigned to specific academic departments, schools, or colleges will be grouped with Library faculty. One additional representative to the Faculty Senate shall hold the rank of adjunct faculty. The adjunct faculty representative may be from any college, the library, or filling an administrative position not assigned to a specific academic department, school, or college. The adjunct faculty senator will not vote on matters pertaining to faculty retention, tenure, and promotion. Reapportionment shall take place for every March election, except that no senator shall be required to abandon a senate seat due to reapportionment before the senator's term has expired.

Section G. Budget Review Committee

The Budget Review Committee shall consist of at least four (4) faculty members, at least two (2) of whom shall be senators. The duties and obligations of the Committee shall be as follows:

1. To participate in the preparation of the total institutional budget and in deliberations and decisions relevant to the apportioning and reapportioning of funds among its specific fiscal divisions, especially when such deliberations of proposed reallocation of funds is deemed to affect academic effectiveness. The committee has the obligation to ensure the appropriate number of representatives attend the sessions where such discussions and deliberations take place.

2. To represent faculty interests and interpret the needs of faculty to the University President and other officials relative to resource matters.
3. To provide direct communication to the Faculty Senate relative to the July budget, the October budget revisions, and final budget revisions according to consultations with administrative and budget officials. The committee shall have the authority to request documentation of line item allocations within the budget and variations between budgeted amounts and actual expenditures within any given fiscal year. The committee shall have the authority to request rationales for such variations.
4. By special assignment, to function as a sub-committee to another Faculty Senate committee if requested or needed by the other committee.

Article VI

Election of Faculty Member to the University Board of Trustees

Section A: Appointment

By the third Friday of September, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will contact all faculty from each college and the constituted area of the Library to request nominations of faculty members to be considered for election to the Austin Peay State University institutional governing board. Each academic unit/department and the library will be afforded the opportunity to nominate one representative who meets all of the required criteria. The selection process will originate within each academic unit/department through a process of written or acceptable electronic nomination. Written or electronic nominations must be submitted to the unit/department chair by a second member of the unit/department faculty at least four (4) days prior to the departmental election. The nomination must be signed by both the nominator and the nominee. The unit/department chair will conduct the election via secret ballot and forward the results to Faculty Senate Executive Committee no later than the first Friday in October. The various college nominees will then be put forward for the final, university-wide election that will begin on the third Friday in October. There can be no more nominees than colleges and the library during any given election cycle. The university-wide faculty election will end by the last Friday in October. The nominee receiving the plurality of the university-wide votes will serve as a member of the institutional board. In the event of a tie, the Faculty Senate will conduct a run-off vote. The faculty member receiving the majority of the run-off votes will serve as a member of the institutional board. Rules governing the Faculty Senate voting process and quorum will be in accord with the current Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws.

The elected faculty institutional board member will be recognized at the November meeting of the Faculty Senate and will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Section B: Term

The faculty member elected to serve as a member of the institutional board will serve a two-year term, per state law. A faculty member may not serve consecutive terms. No faculty member shall be eligible to serve more than two terms as a member of the institutional board during their appointment at Austin Peay State University.

Section C: Eligibility

A faculty member will be considered eligible to serve as a member of the institutional board if the individual meets the following criteria:

- The faculty member must be tenured;
- The faculty member must be fully ranked;
- The faculty member must have been employed at Austin Peay State University for a minimum of seven consecutive years;

The Faculty Senate will vote to make the final determination in situations where a faculty member's eligibility is in dispute. Rules governing the Faculty Senate voting process and quorum will be in accord with the current Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws.

Section D: Replacement

If a faculty appointee is unable to fulfill the commitments of their two-year appointment, a special election that is congruent with the steps outlined in Sections I and III of this document will be conducted to fill the vacancy. Due to the potential urgency of such a situation, the special election will be expedited to prevent a disruption of faculty representation to pertinent matters pertaining to institutional board business. Upon election, the replacement will complete the remainder of their predecessor's term. In the event of a faculty member's dismissal from the institutional board, a replacement will be identified through a special election that is congruent with the steps outlined in Sections I and III of this document. Because of the potential urgency of such a situation, the special election will be expedited to prevent a disruption of faculty representation on the board. Upon election, the replacement will complete the remainder of their predecessor's term.

Section E: Duties and Expectations

The faculty member of the institutional board will attend board meetings in an effort to represent the interests, perspectives, and concerns of the faculty, staff, and the university as a whole. As an ex-officio member of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the faculty institutional board member will be expected to provide regular updates pertaining to institutional board business. The faculty institutional board member will be expected to provide informational updates and/or presentations during the Faculty Senate's regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

Article VII

Adoption and Amendments to Bylaws

The Bylaws may be amended by a majority of those senators in attendance at the next regular business meeting after the meeting at which such amendments are presented.

The adoption of these Bylaws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present at a regular meeting after the meeting at which they are proposed.

Latest amendments passed February 24, 2022.
