

Background: The election of three new members of the Senate Council each fall semester is cumbersome and confusing.

Proposal: This proposal seeks to simplify the election process (a) to allow an email rather than secret ballot nomination round, (b) to elect members based on their total 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place votes rather than only their 1<sup>st</sup> place votes, and (c) to allow for a more streamlined process if there are fewer candidates.

NOTE: Wording that is ~~red with strike-out marks~~ is existing wording that is proposed for deletion. Wording that is underlined in blue is new proposed wording.

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### **1.3.1 UNIVERSITY SENATE COUNCIL**

#### **1.3.1.1 Purposes and Functions of the Senate Council** (omitted)

#### **1.3.1.2 Composition**

The Senate Council shall be composed of elected voting representatives (GR IV.A) and *ex officio* members as follows: The voting elected membership shall be nine (9) members elected by and from the 94 elected faculty representatives in the University Senate, and two (2) members elected by and from the newly elected student representatives in the University Senate.

- \* When one of the 9 voting faculty elected to a three-year term in the Senate Council becomes elected as Faculty Trustee, the person retains the status as one of the 9 voting faculty members of the Senate Council until the three-year term on the Senate Council ends. Upon the end of the term, the person then acquires the status of *ex officio* nonvoting Faculty Trustee member of the Senate Council. [SREC: 5/13/2016]

The *ex officio* voting member shall be the President of the Student Government Association, and the *ex officio* non-voting members shall be the faculty members of the Board of Trustees, if they are not elected members of the Senate Council, and the immediate past chair of the Senate Council, if his or her term on the Senate Council has expired. For purposes of this rule, the phrase “immediate past chair of the Senate Council” means the person who served as chair of the Senate Council during the preceding year.

- \* When the term of a Senate Council Chair has ended, the person acquires the status of nonvoting ‘past chair’ member of the Senate Council, regardless of whether the person has been appointed to an administrative position or administrative assignment that makes the person ineligible for election to the University Senate. [SREC: 5/13/2016]

Six elected members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. [US: 10/10/77; US: 10/12/98] If the elected faculty representatives to the Senate Council are to perform a statutory action (KRS 164.240) on behalf of the elected faculty representatives of the Senate (GR IV.A,B), then five of those nine members shall constitute a quorum (KRS 446.050).

- \* “Elected members” means any members who are not *ex officio* members. [SREC: 11/20/2006]

#### **A. Elected Faculty Membership**

1. **Eligibility for Membership.** Any elected faculty member of the Senate (or person appointed to replace an elected member) whose term of office has not expired at the time of the election shall

be eligible for election to the Senate Council, except that no more than three (3) of the nine elected faculty members of the Senate Council shall be from any one college. If an elected faculty representative in the Senate has become ineligible and a replacement has been made, only the person who has replaced the ineligible representative shall be eligible for election to the Senate Council. Senate Council members are not eligible to succeed themselves until a lapse of one year from the expiration of their Senate Council membership (including service as Chair or Vice Chair), except that members who are filling a vacancy and who have served no more than one year, if otherwise eligible, may be eligible for election. The duration of the term of membership on the Senate Council shall not be affected by the member's term on the University Senate. [US: 10/14/85]

**2. Terms.** Elected faculty representatives in the Senate Council shall serve for three (3) years commencing on January 1 following their election and continuing until expiration of their terms or until their successors are elected and certified.

**3. Election.** ~~Elections~~ Voting shall be conducted by electronic secret ballot or paper secret ballot if electronic election is not feasible. Three (3) elected faculty representatives in the University Senate shall be elected annually during the fall semester to serve on the Senate Council. The ~~election shall be conducted under the supervision of the~~ Chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee ~~or that person's designee shall preside over the election as the election official and, who~~ shall remind the voters that election to the Senate Council confers eligibility for election to Senate Council Chair the following year. [US: 1/18/88; US: 10/8/2012]

**(a) Nominating Round.** ~~On the~~ In the nominating ballot round, ~~each~~ elected Faculty Senators may nominate up to three (3) eligible Senators from the roster of the eligible ~~Faculty Senators~~ persons as certified by the ~~Chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee~~ election official ~~and made available to Senators.~~ The name of the eligible Faculty Senators who have been nominated and have indicated to the election official their willingness to serve will appear on the ballot.

~~There shall be six (6) names on the voting ballot. The six (6) eligible Senators receiving the largest number of nominations shall be placed on the voting ballot, except that not more than twice the number of names from any one college as could potentially be elected from that college shall be eligible for being placed on the voting ballot. All ties will be resolved by a random drawing. Prior to placing the names of nominees on the voting ballot, the nominees' willingness to serve shall be ascertained by the Chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee.~~

If ten (10) or fewer total nominees are willing to serve, and there are no more than twice the number of names from any one college as could potentially be elected from that college, elections shall proceed directly to the Final Voting Round described in subsection (c) below. Otherwise, elections shall include a Preliminary Voting Round described in subsection (b) below.

If three (3) or fewer total nominees are willing to serve, additional solicitations shall be made in an effort to increase the number of nominees.

**(b) Preliminary Voting Round.** ~~Each voter must rank order exactly three (3) candidates from the list of the six (6) nominees on the voting ballot. Failure to rank order exactly three (3) different candidates will disqualify the ballot. The six nominees will be ranked as follows:~~

~~i. ——— By the number of first-choice votes;~~

~~ii. ——— If there are any ties, the higher ranking goes to the candidate with the larger number of second-choice votes;~~

~~iii. If there are still ties, the higher ranking goes to the candidate with the larger number of third-choice votes;~~

~~iv. If there are still ties, the ranking will be determined by random draw.~~

On this first ballot, elected Faculty Senators may rank order up to three (3) candidates from the list of eligible persons as certified by the **Chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee election official**. Rank orders will be used to resolve ties. The six (6) candidates with the largest number of total votes, including those ranking the candidate first, second, or third, **and** shall become candidates in the Final Voting Round, except that there must not be more than twice the number of names from any one college as could potentially be elected from that college. Ties will be resolved as follows:

i. The higher ranking goes to the candidate with the larger number of first-choice votes;

ii. If there are still ties, the higher ranking goes to the candidate with the larger number of second-choice votes;

iii. If there are still ties, the higher ranking goes to the candidate with the larger number of third-choice votes;

iv. If there are still ties, the ranking will be determined by random draw.

**(c) Final Voting Round.** On this final ballot, elected Faculty Senators may rank order up to three (3) candidates from the list of the eligible persons as certified by the **Chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee election official**. The candidates will then be ranked according to the procedure listed in subsection (b) above. **The three (3) candidates with the highest rank shall be elected except that no more than three (3) of the nine elected faculty members of the Senate Council shall be from any one college.**

~~(e)(d)~~ **Election Results.** The three highest-ranked candidates under subsection ~~(b)(c)~~ above are elected.

~~(d)(e)~~ The remaining ~~three~~ candidates will be considered in the order so ranked in case of future vacancies on the Senate Council. Ties will be resolved in a fashion similar to the procedure in subsection (b) above.

**4. Vacancies.** Upon resignation of any elected faculty representative in the Senate Council or when such a member is no longer eligible to be a Senator, a vacancy shall be declared by the Chair of the Senate Council. A vacancy on the Senate Council shall be filled by the eligible candidate who at the most recent Senate Council election ranked the highest without being elected and who is eligible and willing to serve. [US: 1/18/88]

If the above procedure still does not fill the vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled with an eligible and willing elected Faculty Senator nominated by the Senate Council Chair and approved by the majority of the voting faculty representatives of the Senate Council.

The term of such appointments shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacating Senate Council member.

## **B. Elected Student Membership**

- 1. Terms.** The two elected student members of the Senate Council and the President of the Student Government Association shall serve terms of one (1) year commencing July 1 following their election and continuing until their successors are elected and certified. [US: 10/12/98]
- 2. Election.** The two (2) elected student members of the Senate Council shall be chosen annually in the second semester of the academic year. As soon as possible after the election of the student members of the University Senate during the second semester, the President of the Student Government Association shall assemble these persons to elect the student members of the Senate Council by majority vote. [US: 10/12/98]
- 3. Vacancies.** If at any time during the term of a student member of the Senate Council he or she should become ineligible for membership in the Senate, his or her position on the Council shall be declared vacant. The President of the Student Government Association shall then assemble the student members of the University Senate to elect his or her successor.