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9-20-2018

Governors State University Faculty Senate Bylaws - Revised September 20, 2018

Faculty Senate

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Effective May 12, 1982
Revised October 16, 2003
Revised June 6, 2013
Revised October 15, 2015
Revised May 18, 2017
Revised September 21, 2017
Revised March 29, 2018
Revised September 20, 2018

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE BYLAWS

The Faculty of Governors State University, in establishing and ratifying these bylaws, do recognize and embrace the rights and responsibilities required to support a robust system of shared governance at Governors State University. These bylaws formalize the structure of the Faculty Senate and direct how decisions are made and business is conducted in the Faculty Senate. Standing Rules are the rules for selected operations within the Faculty Senate.

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ARTICLE I. DEFINITIONS

- Section 1.** **Academic Rank** shall refer to the ranks of Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor, specifically **Unit A** tenured and tenure-track Faculty, as defined in the **Agreement**.
- Section 2.** **Ad Hoc Committee** shall mean a committee formed by the Senate President for a specific task or objective and dissolved after the completion of the task or achievement of the objective.
- Section 3.** **Administrators** shall mean the persons responsible for departments, divisions, colleges, and/or equivalent units, continuing up organizational command through

the President of the University.

- Section 4.** **Agreement** shall mean the current binding contract between University Board of Trustees and the University Professionals of Illinois.
- Section 5.** **Contingent Faculty** shall mean temporary employees as described in the Agreement, including Unit B Faculty. For the purposes of these Bylaws, Contingent Faculty also includes adjuncts, until these positions are defined in the Agreement.
- Section 6.** **Days** shall mean calendar days unless otherwise specified.
- Section 7.** **Faculty** shall mean the body of full-time staff engaging in teaching and research who hold academic rank (**Unit A Faculty**). Instructors, Program Coordinators and Resource Faculty who are Tenured/Tenure Track are considered Faculty.
- Section 8.** **Guest** shall mean any person who is not an elected member of the Faculty Senate.
- Section 9.** **Instructor** shall mean a Tenure-Track Employee who has completed all requirements for a terminal degree other than the dissertation (ABD), thesis, or final project on a limited term contract pending the award of his/her terminal degree.
- Section 10.** **Lecturer and Senior Lecturer** shall mean temporary non-tenure track Faculty, referred to as **Unit B** in the Agreement.
- Section 11.** **Liaison.** Liaison implies information sharing. Those who serve as liaisons to the Faculty Senate, University, Bargaining Unit, Board of Trustees, or other Committees shall prepare periodic reports for the Senate. The liaisons may report on matters of importance to the Faculty, but are Guests to the Faculty Senate and its Committees.
- Section 12.** **Resource Faculty** shall mean Tenured/Tenure Track: Librarians, Student Development Outreach Counselors, and Instructional Designers.
- Section 13.** **Standing Committee** shall mean a permanent committee, either elected or appointed, to address a specified subject, task, or objective.
- Section 14.** **Task Force** shall mean a temporary group formed under the recommendation of the Faculty Senate for the purpose of carrying out a continuing specific task or objective and dissolved after the completion of the task or achievement of the objective.
- Section 15.** **Emeritus Faculty** shall mean individuals holding the status of faculty *emeritus* or *emerita* conferred by the GSU Board of Trustees in accordance with the appropriate policy.

ARTICLE II. FUNCTIONS

- Section 1. Authority.** All actions taken by the Faculty Senate shall be considered as actions taken for the Faculty and in no case as actions of an autonomous body.
- Section 2. Primary Functions.** The Faculty Senate is the elected and representative body of the Faculty. The Faculty Senate shall consider, make recommendations, and pass resolutions concerning matters of university interest, including policies and processes regarding curriculum, academic programs, research, and Faculty status, and other responsibilities and obligations necessary for shared governance of Governors State University.
- Section 3. Representatives of the Faculty.** The Faculty Senate speaks as representative of the Faculty, and shall report the views and the collective wisdom of the Faculty on issues related to the University or education, to whatever audience it deems appropriate.
- Section 4. Role in University Governance.** A primary function of the Faculty Senate is to protect academic freedom and shared governance.
- Section 5. Consultative Body.** As a body of the whole, the Faculty Senate may have a consultative or an advisory role in all other matters concerning the mission, welfare, and performance of the University.
- A. Advisory.** The Faculty Senate may recommend policies to any administrator.
 - B. Shared Responsibility.** The Faculty Senate, as a whole or through chairs of the standing committees on curriculum and program review, may make policy recommendations to the President, Provost, and other senior Administrators. If the Faculty Senate and the Administrator disagree, then they or their representatives must confer in an attempt to resolve the differences. Any failure to resolve must be addressed by the Senate President and communicated in writing.
 - C. Role in Administrative Reviews.** The Faculty Senate shall have a consultative role in developing criteria for and the summary publication of periodic reviews of university Chairs, Deans, and other Administrators, up to and including the Provost and President, with the goal of improving performance of Administrators during their tenure of office.
 - D. Role in Senior Administrative Search Committees.** The Faculty Senate shall be responsible for selecting a slate of Faculty candidates to serve on Presidential, Provost, and Deans Search Committees. The Search Committees shall include at least one Faculty member from this slate. Each search may lead to the creation of a new slate of candidates.

- E. **Resolutions to Board of Trustees.** On its own initiative, the Faculty Senate may submit recommendations and resolutions to the Board of Trustees, transmitted through the President of the Faculty Senate or its designee, on any matter affecting the interests of the University.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Apportionment.** The elected membership of the Faculty Senate shall consist of twelve-and-a-half percent (12.5%) of the Unit A full-time tenured and tenure track Faculty of each college and support units. In applying the forgoing percentages, fractional memberships of one-half (1/2) or more shall be rounded to one (1). An additional five (5) seats shall be elected At Large from the Unit A faculty. An additional one (1) seat shall be elected by the Unit B teaching Faculty from the Senior-Status Unit B teaching faculty, rotating annually among each college according to a schedule set in the Standing Rules. An additional one (1) seat shall be elected at-large from among the *emeritus* faculty. At its discretion, by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its voting membership, the Faculty Senate may appoint one (1) additional member from each college and the University Library.

- Section 2. Eligibility.** Faculty are eligible for election immediately upon their University appointment. Students, staff, non-academic Administrators, faculty holding full-time administrative appointments, and adjunct Faculty are ineligible for election to the Faculty Senate.

- Section 3. Terms.** Terms of membership for Unit A and *emeritus* seats shall coincide with the academic biennial, except that the term of a member elected to fill an existing vacancy shall begin on the date of election and terminate when that term expires. The term of membership for Unit B faculty shall coincide with academic year. If, due to attrition, the number of Senators serving in the second year of their terms falls to less than thirty-five percent (35%) of allotted college membership on the Senate, a special election will be held to elect new members to serve for the remainder of the academic year. The senate term of elected officers shall be extended to encompass the term-in-office. Officers in extended terms shall be counted in addition to normal apportionment.

- Section 4. Elections.** Regular elections to fill prospective vacancies due to expiration of terms and special elections shall be held in May prior to the last Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year, when the Faculty Senate shall certify the election results.
 - A. **Voting Eligibility.** Only Unit A Faculty from the represented constituency (college, library, or at-large) are eligible to vote in elections to fill Unit A seats. Only Unit B teaching faculty are eligible to vote in elections to fill the

Senior-Status Unit B seat. Only *Emeritus* faculty are eligible to vote in elections to fill the *Emeritus* seat.

- B. Procedures.** Nominations, balloting, election duration, voting procedures, results, handling ties, certification, and election disputes shall be codified in the Standing Rules, as specified in Article VIII of the Bylaws.
- C. Nominations.** Prospective Faculty senators for all Unit A seats and the Senior-Status Unit B seat shall submit, by the deadline set by the Senate President, a nomination form that includes support from at least five Faculty members (nominators) other than themselves. For Unit A college and library seats, all nominators must be Unit A faculty members from the same constituency, unless the constituency has fewer than five Faculty members, in which case at least one of the nominators must be from the same constituency. For the Senior-Status Unit B seat, all nominators must be Unit B teaching faculty members. Nominations for the at-large Unit A and Senior-Status Unit B seats must include nominators from more than one college, with the University Library counting as a college. *Emeritus* faculty seeking nomination shall inform the Senate President by the deadline.
- D. Balloting.** Ballots must ensure both voter eligibility and confidentiality of votes. The handling of paper and electronic balloting shall be codified in the Standing Rules. The Faculty Senate is empowered to conduct electronic balloting if it is satisfied this can be done in a reasonably secure manner.
- E. Election Duration.** Voting periods shall be specified in the Standing Rules.
- F. Voting.** Votes for a position shall not exceed the number of vacancies to be filled. Voting is limited to Faculty members from the same constituency, unless the position sought is at-large. Those receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected. If there are no competing nominations for any particular vacancy, the Faculty member shall be seated without further note.
- G. Results.** The Senate President shall report results to the Faculty Senate in a timely manner.
- H. Ties.** The group counting the ballots shall resolve ties through a run-off election amongst the tied candidates, which shall be conducted in a timely manner.
- I. Certification.** The ballots shall be counted and certified by Officers of the Faculty Senate prior to the commencement of the subsequent term.

Section 5. Vacancies. Vacancies in the Faculty Senate caused by other than normal expiration of terms may occur through resignation, through termination of Faculty

status within the University, through extended leave, or by reason of persistent absenteeism from meetings of the Senate. The Executive Committee shall appoint a temporary member from the same constituency as the vacating member to serve until the vacancy is filled by election, either through a special election or regular election in the following May, whichever occurs first.

Section 6. Service on Committees. Except under pressing personal and professional circumstances, all members of the Faculty Senate are expected to serve on one of the Faculty Senate's committees, whether standing, ad hoc, or task forces.

Section 7. Attendance at Senate. Attendance at Senate meetings is expected of all Faculty Senators. Faculty Senators are expected to notify the Senate President of their absence in advance of a Senate meeting. The Secretary shall keep a record of attendance at all meetings and enter it in the minutes. At the end of each semester the Secretary shall give the Senate President a summary of attendance of each Senator during the semester. The Faculty Senate may take any action it considers appropriate for excessive absenteeism, including declaration of vacancy.

Section 8. Replacement Senators for Teaching Conflict, Sabbatical, or Other Authorized Leave. Senators who do not plan to attend senate meetings due to teaching conflict, sabbatical, or other authorized leave shall notify the senate president no later than two months prior to the start of the leave. The president shall solicit nominations from the senator's constituency for a replacement Senator and bring the names of those responding to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will select one candidate who will become the replacement Senator subject to confirmation by the Senate. Replacement Senators shall have all the rights and responsibilities of elected Senators. Upon conclusion of the leave, if the senate term has not expired, the elected Senator shall retake the Senate seat.

ARTICLE IV. IMPEACHMENT

Section 1. Impeachment. Any Senator, Officer, or Committee member from a Faculty Senate Standing, Ad Hoc, or Task Force committee may be impeached for failure to perform the specified duties and/or behavior incompatible with the status of duties of the position. Removal of an Officer from office, a Committee member from committee, and Senator from their seat, are separate procedures and shall be conducted as such.

A. Removal from Senate. The removal process is initiated when one-third (33%) of Faculty Senators sign a petition calling for the removal of the Senator from their seat and forward the petition to the Senate. This proposed action will then be placed on the next Faculty Senate agenda. At the meeting during which the item is considered, the Faculty Senators who presented the petition will state their charges and the Senator will be allowed, but is not

required, to address the charges. A two-thirds (67%) vote of the Faculty Senate by secret ballot is necessary to remove the Senator from their seat, and the position from which they are removed declared vacant. A removed Senator may not run for Senate for four (4) years after removal.

- B. Removal of Officers from Office.** The removal process is initiated when one-third (33%) of Faculty Senators sign a petition calling for the removal of the Senator from Office, and forward the petition to the Senate. This proposed action will then be placed on the next Faculty Senate agenda. At the meeting during which the item is considered, the Faculty Senators who presented the petition will state their charges and the Senator will be allowed, but is not required, to address the charges. A two-thirds (67%) vote of the Faculty Senate by secret ballot is necessary to remove the Senator from Office, and the position from which they are removed declared vacant. A removed officer may not be considered for an Officer for a period of four (4) years after removal.
- C. Removal from Committee.** The removal process is initiated when one-third (33%) of a Faculty Senate Standing, Ad Hoc, or Task Force Committee signs a petition calling for the removal of the Faculty from the Committee, and forwards the petition to the Senate Executive Committee. This proposed action will then be placed on the next Faculty Senate agenda. At the meeting during which the item is considered, the Committee members who presented the petition will state their charges and the member will be allowed, but is not required, to address the charges. A two-thirds (67%) vote of the Faculty Senate is necessary to remove the member from the Committee, and the position from which they are removed declared vacant. A removed Committee member may not be considered for another Faculty Senate Committee for a period of four (4) years after removal.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Faculty Senate shall be a President, a Vice President, an Immediate Past President, a Secretary, and a Parliamentarian. The President, Vice President, and Secretary shall be elected by and from the membership of the senate, and the President shall hold a tenured appointment.

Section 2. Terms.

- A. President.** The term of office of the Senate President shall be for two (2) academic years, and run from the August Faculty Senate meeting in which they were elected, and end upon the election of the successor in the August Faculty Senate meeting two years later. No individual shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms as Senate President in addition to a portion of the previous term resulting from a vacancy. In the event of vacancy the Vice

President, if willing and qualified, shall assume office as President; otherwise, or in the event of a concurrent vacancy in the office of Vice President, the Senate shall hold a special election to fill the office from its membership for the duration of the term.

- B. Vice President.** The term of office of the Senate Vice President shall be for two (2) academic years, and run from the August Faculty Senate meeting in which they were elected, and end upon the election of the successor in the August Faculty Senate meeting two years later. No individual shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms as Senate Vice President in addition to a portion of the previous term resulting from a vacancy. In the event of vacancy the Senate shall hold a special election to fill the office from its membership for the duration of the term.
- C. Immediate Past President.** The most-recent former President, not having been impeached or resigned under dishonorable circumstances, holding an academic title at Governors State University (including *emeritus*) and willing to serve, shall hold the office of Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President need not be a member of the senate. When no former president is qualified and willing to serve, there shall be no Immediate Past President.
- D. Secretary.** The term of office of the Senate Secretary shall be for two (2) academic years, and run from the August Faculty Senate meeting in which they were elected, and end upon the election of the successor in the August Faculty Senate meeting two years later. No individual shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms as Senate Secretary in addition to a portion of the previous term resulting from a vacancy. In the event of vacancy the Senate shall hold a special election to fill the office from its membership for the duration of the term.
- E. Parliamentarian.** A Parliamentarian may be appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. The Parliamentarian shall serve at the pleasure of the President and the term of the Parliamentarian shall be concurrent with the term of the President. The Parliamentarian may be reappointed without limit by successor presidents.

Section 3. Duties. The primary duties of elected officers are listed below. In addition, Standing Rules governing the Senate meetings may include additional duties and responsibilities.

- A.** The Senate President shall chair all meetings of the Faculty Senate at which the individual is present and shall carry out such additional duties and responsibilities as are prescribed for the Senate President in the Standing Rules and in these Bylaws. The Senate President shall serve as Marshal in all academic processions.

- B. The Senate Vice-President shall assume the responsibilities of the Senate President in the former's absence or incapacity, and shall serve as Senate President when the Senate President is not present during the meeting.
- C. The Immediate Past President shall provide wisdom, guidance, and continuity, shall conduct officer elections, shall serve as President in the absence of the President and Vice President, and may assume other duties at the discretion of the President.
- D. The Senate Secretary shall be responsible for keeping accurate minutes of all Senate activities including motions acted upon and their disposition. The Senate Secretary shall preside at Senate meetings in the absence of the Senate President, Vice-President, and Immediate Past President.
- E. The Parliamentarian shall advise the President and the Senate on matters of order and matters pertaining to these bylaws, University regulations and policies, and *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, and may assume other duties at the discretion of the President.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

- Section 1. Regular Meetings.** The Faculty Senate shall hold regular monthly meetings according to a schedule adopted and published to Faculty and appropriate Administrators prior to the outset of each academic year.
- Section 2. Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be convened by the Senate President on motion of the Senate or on petition of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total Faculty constituency, provided at least seven (7) days advance notice is published to that constituency. The purpose of the meeting must be announced at the time of notification.
- Section 3. Notification.** The Senate President shall notify the Faculty of the date, time, and location of regular meetings no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Agenda shall be sent at the time of notification.
- Section 4. Meeting Cancellation.** Any regularly scheduled meeting of the Faculty Senate may be canceled no less than 24 hours in advance by unanimous approval of the Executive Committee provided that notice of the cancellation is made to the university community. If matters have been submitted to the Executive Committee for that particular meeting, the Executive Committee must place those matters on priority for the subsequent meeting.
- Section 5. Location.** Faculty Senate meetings shall be held on the campus of Governors State University.

Section 6. Length. Regular meetings shall be limited to two hours in length and may be extended by a simple majority of voting members present. Special meetings shall continue until completion of the agenda or a motion to adjourn carried by a simple majority of voting members present.

Section 7. Rights.

- A. **Floor Rights.** All current Senators shall have floor rights at Senate meetings. Floor rights for Guests in attendance may be extended at the discretion of the voting members of the meeting.
- B. **Voting Rights.** All current Unit A Senators and the *Emeritus* Senator shall have voting rights on all matters at Senate meetings. The current Senior-Status Unit B Senator shall have voting rights at Senate meetings except as pertain to matters related to curriculum. Guests shall not have voting rights.

Section 8. Voting on Motions.

- A. **Voting in Meetings.** Voting on motions in the Faculty Senate shall be by voice vote, except whenever the Senate President or any member requests a vote by secret ballot or roll call. In the case of a request for a secret ballot or roll call vote, the Senate President shall ask for consent of the majority of Senators present. When a vote by roll call or secret ballot is taken, the record of the vote shall be entered in the minutes.
- B. **Electronic Voting on Time-Sensitive Motions.** The Senate President, under consent of the Faculty Senate, may from time to time request an electronic vote on time-sensitive and non-emergency motions that are limited to items that have already been considered in a Senate meeting and/or require a swift and non-controversial decision. The Senate President shall electronically obtain consent for each individual request with a simple majority from Senators. A simple majority of all Senators is required to pass the motion.
 - 1. If the motion fails to either obtain consent or pass, then the motion shall be placed on the agenda for the next Senate Meeting.
 - 2. Quorum shall be considered met according to a simple majority of Senators.
 - 3. In order to respect and protect shared governance, the Faculty Senate shall be empowered to limit as strictly as necessary the qualifications and timing of utilizing electronic methods of voting.
- C. **Absentee and Proxy Votes.** Absentee ballots from any Senator and proxy

votes on behalf of any Senator shall not be accepted in any tally of votes in the Faculty Senate.

D. Electronically Present. Senate Standing Rules may permit Senators to participate as present by audioconference or videoconference.

Section 9. Order of Business. Unless amended by the Senate at the meeting, regular meetings will follow the order of business as specified in the Standing Rules.

Section 10. Special Meeting Order of Business. The agenda of special meetings will be limited to the items which generated the need for the meeting. New business items will be based on requests made by the Senators present. New business items tabled or not discussed due to adjournment will constitute old business at the next regular meeting.

Section 11. Quorum. A simple majority of the members of the Faculty Senate shall constitute a quorum for a Senate meeting. In the absence of a quorum, discussion may occur at the discretion of the Senate President, but no action may be taken except adjournment to a specified future time.

Section 12. Addition of New Matters. After the agenda is certified at the beginning of the Senate meeting, any new matter except resolutions of respect, commendation, or regret shall not be acted upon at the same session in which it is introduced, except by consent of two-thirds of those present.

Section 13. Open Meetings. The published agenda for all Faculty Senate meetings shall include an invitation to members of the Faculty to attend Faculty Senate meetings. Guests of the Senate and members of the University community who are not members of the Senate may be granted the privilege of the floor and attendance in meetings in accordance with the Standing Rules established by the Senate.

Section 14. Minutes. The Faculty Senate shall maintain meeting minutes open for review by the general public and University, and housed in a repository as listed in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. General Guidelines.

A. Composition. Each Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate, with the exception of the Executive Committee, shall have their composition as specified in the Standing Rules. Incumbency of membership on standing committees, with the exception of the Executive Committee, shall be for staggered terms of two years.

- B. Ex-Officio Membership.** Contingent Faculty, Administrators, and Staff shall not serve as voting members on any Faculty Senate standing or ad hoc committee, but may serve as voting members on task forces if the Faculty Senate deems it appropriate.
- C. Term Expiration Vacancies.** Vacancies due to expiration of terms shall coincide with Senate elections in May.
- D. Mid-term Vacancies.** Mid-term vacancies through attrition shall be filled by the Senate upon recommendation of the Executive Committee for the remainder of the vacated term.
- E. Meetings.** Each Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate shall meet at least monthly during Fall and Spring semesters.
- F. Attendance.** Attendance at Senate Standing, Ad Hoc, and Task Force committee meetings is expected of all committee members not on sabbatical. The Committee shall report to the Executive Committee cases of excessive absenteeism for any member, including the Chair. The Faculty Senate may take any action it considers appropriate for excessive absenteeism, including declaration of vacancy.
- G. Records.** Each of the Standing Committees, with the exception of the Executive Committee, shall maintain its own records, and shall periodically render summaries to the Senate of its actions and notices of upcoming proposals and deadlines. The Chair shall deliver an annual written report of the committee activities to all Faculty Senators prior to the first Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year. The Faculty Senate may accept by majority vote, from time to time, electronic versions of summaries in lieu of delivery in person.
- H. Reporting.** Upon introduction, the Faculty Senate may refer an issue to a Senate Standing Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, or Task Force for its recommendation. This committee or task force shall be responsible for making a formal recommendation to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senatemay take any action it considers appropriate for inconsistent or absent reporting.
 - 1. Procedure.** All reports and recommendations from Senate Standing Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, or Task Force concerning the University's academic operations of teaching, research, extension and outreach shall be submitted to the Faculty Senate. The Senate President or designee will inform the appropriate Administrator of the status of Faculty Senate actions on committee reports and recommendations.

2. **Process.** The Faculty Senate may approve or disapprove a report or recommendation, either in whole or in part, or may withhold action while requesting additional study by the reporting committee or task force, or by the Faculty Senate.
3. **Committee Reports.** When a committee report is placed on the Faculty Senate agenda and presented, the Faculty Senate automatically receives the report and no further action is necessary (i.e., for information only). If the Faculty Senate wishes to adopt a committee report, a motion to do so must be made and, if passed, indicates that the Faculty Senate adopts the entire report. The Faculty Senate may adopt, amend, or fail to adopt any recommendation made by a committee in its report.
4. **Liaison Responsibilities.** Liaison implies information sharing. Faculty Senators who serve as liaisons to University, Bargaining Unit, Board of Trustees, or other Committees will prepare written reports for the Senate each semester. The liaisons may report on matters of importance to the Faculty.
5. **Promptness in Reporting.** Committee reports for Faculty Senate action shall be submitted to each Senator at least three days prior to the meeting date on which the committee's report will be discussed.

Section 2. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is subject to the orders of the Senate and none of its actions shall conflict with actions taken by the Senate.

- A. **Composition.** The Executive Committee shall consist of: Eight (8) voting members: the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and one representative of each of the colleges and the University Library, elected annually by and from the faculty senators from those constituencies, caucusing independently. In addition, there shall be the following non-voting members: the Immediate Past President, chairpersons of the University Curriculum Committee, Academic Program Review Committee, Educational Policies Committee, and General Education Council, and the Parliamentarian. There shall also be appointed a non-voting representative by and from the academic administration.
- B. **Duties.** The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Senate between its meetings, shall set Senate agendas, and shall perform such other duties as are set forth elsewhere in these Bylaws and the Standing Rules.
- C. **Meetings.** Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held once a month in advance of the regular Senate meetings, as noted in the Standing Rules, for the setting of Senate agenda and for other purposes. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

D. Governance.

1. **Supervisory Role.** The Executive Committee shall supervise nominations and elections to the Faculty Senate, University-wide committees, and other such bodies as the Senate is charged with filling.
2. **Resolutionary Role.** The Executive Committee, under advisement of the parliamentarian, shall be responsible for resolving conflicting interpretations of the Standing Rules and/or these Bylaws.

Section 3. Institutional Policies Committee. The Institutional Policies Committee shall perform the following duties, as well as others as specified in the Standing Rules:

- A. **Primary Task.** The Institutional Policies Committee shall receive, evaluate, and recommend proposals for new policies with academic content, interim policies, and proposals for revisions of existing policies from any member of the University community, and review, for consistency, existing University policies and recommend appropriate changes.
- B. **Advisory Role.** The Institutional Policies Committee shall recommend new policies designed to serve the needs of the institution.
- C. **Expert Testimony.** The Institutional Policies Committee shall conduct hearings and obtain expert testimony to help the Committee form University policy recommendations when advisable.
- D. **Shared Responsibility.** The Institutional Policies Committee shall present its policy recommendations to the Faculty Senate for approval.

Section 4. The Academic Program Review Committee. The Academic Program Review Committee shall perform the following duties, as well as others as specified in the Standing Rules:

- A. **Primary Task.** Review, in depth, the requests for New and Expanded Program Proposals and make appropriate recommendations. In addition, review, in depth, annual program reviews, status categories recommended by academic units, and any other reviews of similar nature and make appropriate recommendations.

- B. Advisory Role.** Develop criteria for recommending internal and external program reviews. Review proposals for academic reorganization and make appropriate recommendations. Academic reorganization, for this purpose, is defined as a shift in any or all programs from one division, school, or college to another division, school, or college.
- C. Shared Responsibility.** The Academic Program Review Committee shall forward all recommendations concerning graduate studies to the Executive Committee, and the committee shall present all major proposals to the Senate prior to approval.

Section 5. The University Curriculum Committee. The University Curriculum Committee shall perform the following duties, as well as others as specified in the Standing Rules:

- A. Primary Task.** Recommend approval, modification, or rejection of proposed academic curricula on a periodic basis, including use of criteria on the scope, level, and sequence of work, internal and external evaluation, admission requirements, culminating experiences, and qualification of teaching Faculty. The Committee review shall exclude analysis of cost, need, and allocation of resources.
- B. Advisory Role.** Recommend approval, modification, or rejection of all new courses, all changes to existing courses, and existing courses on a periodic basis. The Committee shall use sets of criteria to evaluate program inclusion of minimal competency levels at the undergraduate and graduate level, relevancy to program objectives, overlap with existing courses, and student demand.
- C. Evaluative Role.** Periodically recommend approval or modification of academic advising procedures including evaluating programs on consistency, assessment of effectiveness, and availability. In addition, the Committee shall periodically review the cumulative experiences of each graduate program, and use evaluation criteria to assess the relevancy of curriculum to program objectives, assessment procedures, extent of Faculty involvement, and record keeping.
- D. Shared Responsibility.** The University Curriculum Committee shall forward all recommendations concerning graduate studies to the Executive Committee, and the committee shall present all major proposals to the Senate prior to approval.

ARTICLE VIII. BYLAWS

Section 1. **Bylaws.** The Faculty Senate shall adopt bylaws that it deems necessary to conduct its business, including rules regarding the conduct of elections.

ARTICLE IX. STANDING RULES

Section 1. **Creation.** At the start of each new academic year, the Faculty Senate shall affirm, with or without amendments, the set of Standing Rules from the previous academic year to establish specific procedures and content areas for governance.

Section 2. **Adoption.** Standing Rules can be adopted by a simple majority vote of the Faculty Senators to establish governance procedures and content areas with respect to matters that are too specific to be described in the Bylaws.

Section 3. **Suspension.** The Standing Rules, in part or in whole, may be suspended or changed by a two-thirds (67%) majority of members of the Faculty Senate.

Section 4. **Amendments.** Amendments to the Standing Rules may be adopted at any meeting of the Senate by a simple majority vote of Senators, provided that the amendments have been presented in writing in the agenda for that meeting.

Section 5. **Consistency.** The Standing Rules must be consistent with the University's Statutes and the Faculty Senate's Bylaws.

ARTICLE X. RELATION TO BARGAINING UNIT

Section 1. **Limitations.** The Faculty Senate shall discharge such duties as are assigned it as a result of collective bargaining agreements between the Board of Trustees and the approved bargaining agent for the Faculty.

ARTICLE XI. RELATION TO EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. **Representation.** The Faculty Senate shall elect, from volunteers and nominees solicited from its constituency, representatives to serve with the Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Committee and other approved external organizations seeking representation from the Faculty Senate.

A. Term Limits. The term limits for the Illinois Board of Higher Education is four (4) years upon which a new person and alternate must be elected.

B. Representation. Representatives need not be senators, but are expected to report to the Senate on a regular basis.

ARTICLE XII. MATTERS PERTAINING TO CONTINGENT FACULTY

Section 1. Contingent Faculty. Standing rules shall clarify the procedures for addressing the concerns or issues of contingent Faculty, if and when a representative from contingent Faculty presents the Senate with such matters.

ARTICLE XIII. SUPREMACY AND PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Supremacy. These Bylaws supersede any Bylaws heretofore adopted by this Senate, and shall in no way supersede applicable federal or state law, Governors State University Board of Trustees Bylaws, University Regulations and Policies, Presidential Interim Policies, College or Division Bylaws, or current or future collective bargaining agreements.

Section 2. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the proceedings of the Faculty Senate and of its committees, in all cases where they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Standing Rules and/or with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV. RATIFICATION, AMENDMENTS, WAIVERS, AND NULLIFICATION

Section 1. Ratification. Ratification of these bylaws shall follow their approval by a two-thirds majority of the Faculty Senate.

Section 2. Amendments. Amendments of the Bylaws may be adopted at any meeting of the Senate by a two-thirds (67%) vote of Senators, provided that the amendments shall have been presented in writing at a preceding regular meeting.

Section 3. Waivers. Upon application to the Executive Committee, a Senator or committee chair may request a temporary or one-time waiver of any specific rule or procedure contained in these bylaws (other than those pertaining to quorum and voting rights at meetings). Such waivers must appear in the Executive Committee's report at the next regular or special meeting. A simple majority of those present and voting at a Senate meeting may overrule any waiver.

Section 4. Nullification. Upon the completion of ten years following ratification, this document shall be considered null and void unless ratified again, with or without amendment, following the same procedure as outlined in "Ratification" above.