

## UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE SUMMARY ALL CHANGES, BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION

At the November 20, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee introduced a discussion regarding improving shared governance at URI. One idea that was discussed was expanding the term length of leadership positions. At the December 11, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee presented an amendment to the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate on the Election of Officers, creating a two-year leadership position, Vice Chair/Chair-elect. The proposed amendment was moved for approval. A vote on the motion was postponed at the January 22, 2015 Faculty Senate meeting to allow a referendum on the corresponding changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate.

Following are the complete and necessary changes to implement the new two-year leadership position.

### PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS:

**5.1** In February of each academic year, the Senate shall elect ~~for the following academic year for one-year terms a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson/Chair-elect for the following academic year~~ who shall serve one year as Vice Chair/Chair-elect and a second, consecutive year as Chair. Senators who are elected to serve this two-year leadership position, as described, shall remain full members of the Faculty Senate as representatives of their colleges for the duration of their service even if the two-year position exceeds the three-year term limit as a Senator (Appendix C, section 2.1). The outgoing Chair whose term has expired shall continue as an ex officio member of the Executive Committee for a period of one year after expiration of the term as Chair, and shall be considered ex officio member of the Faculty Senate during the same year. At its organizational meeting in May, the Senate shall elect at least one senator for a one-year term on the Executive Committee. In order to ensure continuity, the remaining three members of the Executive Committee shall be elected to serve for two years. To stagger their terms, two of the 2-year term members shall be elected on even numbered years and the other 2-year term member on odd numbered years.

**5.2** At its regular meeting in January of each year the Senate shall elect a nominating committee of three members chosen from the members whose terms expire that May. This committee shall present two nominations for ~~each of the positions of Chair and Vice Chair/Chair-elect~~ in February. The remaining one or two year positions on the Executive Committee shall be elected at the organization meeting in May. In selecting its nominees for terms on the Executive Committee, the nominating committee shall consider the senators newly elected as well as those who have served for one or two years, shall consider continuity of membership, and shall, moreover, seek to maintain a reasonable distribution and rotation of the positions to be filled among the various colleges and schools. [#04-05-25](#), [#10-11-29](#)

5.6 Should a vacancy occur in the Vice Chair/~~Chair-elect~~, a Vice Chair/Chair-elect shall be elected by the Faculty Senate ~~the Executive Committee shall name an eligible member of its body to~~ perform the Vice Chair~~person's~~ duties for the remainder of the unexpired term, and to assume the duties of Chair during the subsequent academic year. The election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.1, except for the timing of the election and except that the Executive Committee shall serve as Nominating Committee. ~~The ensuing vacancy in the Executive Committee shall be filled according to the provisions of Section 5.5.~~

5.7 Should a vacancy occur in the Chair, the Vice Chair/~~Chair-elect~~ ~~person~~ shall succeed to that position for the remainder of the unexpired term as well as for the subsequent academic year. If the vacancy occurs prior to the election of a Vice Chair/Chair-elect, a Vice Chair/Chair-elect shall be elected by the Faculty Senate in accordance with Section 5.1 of the By-laws, except for the timing of the election and except that the Executive Committee shall serve as Nominating Committee. If the vacancy occurs after the election of a Vice Chair/Chair-elect, that person shall assume the duties of that position immediately rather than at the beginning of the subsequent academic year, ~~and the Executive Committee shall name an eligible member of its body to perform the Vice Chairperson's duties for the same period.~~ ~~The ensuing vacancy in the Executive Committee shall then be filled according to the provisions of Section 5.5.~~

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION:

### Article III – Membership

1. The Senate shall consist of designated *ex officio* ~~administrative members, ex officio student~~ members and of elected members of the full-time teaching, library, research and extension faculty, chosen in the approximate ratio of one senator for each 10 full-time faculty members. For the purpose of determining the number of senators to be elected by a college, the library or other unit of the faculty authorized to conduct elections, part-time faculty members shall be counted according to the fraction of full-time which they serve. Any professor, associate professor, assistant professor, or instructor of the full-time teaching, library, research and extension faculty may be elected a member of the Senate. The Senate will provide means by which all eligible faculty members not in a college or the library have the opportunity to vote and to be candidates for election. The President, the Provost, the Vice Provosts, the Vice Presidents, the deans of the colleges and schools, the Dean of Admissions, the person who served as Senate chair during the previous academic year, ~~and~~ the President or in his/her absence, the Vice President of the Student Senate, and the President or in his/her absence, the Vice President of the Graduate Student Association shall be members of the Senate *ex officio* without the right to vote, but with the right to make and second motions. Other officers of administration, including personnel deans and the directors and assistant directors of the University administrative divisions, shall not be eligible for election to the Senate. #01-02-8; #01-02-12 (Approved by referendum, May 2002) #03-04-10; #06-07-1 (Approved by referendum, April 2007)

### Article IV – Officers

1. The officers of the Senate shall be a Vice Chair/Chair-elect and a Chair. ~~person and Vice Chairperson.~~ The duties of these officers are those usually associated with the titles of Vice Chair and Chair, except as modified or added to in the By-Laws. In the absence of the Chair~~person~~, the Vice Chair/Chair-elect ~~person~~ shall exercise the full powers of the Chair~~person~~. ~~Their term of~~

~~office shall be one year and they may be elected to succeed themselves once~~ These officers shall be elected in accordance with 5.1 of the Senate By-laws. #01-02-12 (Approved by referendum, May 2002)

2. The faculty members serving as Vice Chair/Chair-elect and as Chair ~~person and Vice Chairperson~~ of the Faculty Senate shall be entitled to reductions of at least one-third and one-half ~~and one-third~~, respectively, of their normal duties. Normal duties include teaching, assigned research, advisement, committee work, thesis direction and other assigned responsibilities. For this reason, faculty members should consult with their appropriate administrative officers prior to acceptance of nomination for these offices. Entitlement should follow automatically upon election, and no further negotiation would be required except for consultation within the department and college to determine how the reduction might best be accomplished.

#### **Article V – Executive Committee**

1. The Vice Chair/Chair-elect, the Chair, ~~person, Vice Chairperson~~ and four senators elected ~~annually~~ from the elected membership of the Senate in accordance with 5.1 of the Senate By-laws shall constitute the regular members of an Executive Committee. The person who served as chair during the preceding year shall serve as an ex officio Executive Committee member. The ~~Chairperson~~ of the Senate shall be ~~chairperson~~ of the Executive Committee. This Committee shall meet on call of the ~~Chairperson~~, or on request of any two of its members. It shall serve as the steering committee of the Senate and shall represent, or designate persons to represent, the Senate in meetings with the President, Board of Education ~~Governors~~ and other University bodies.

#### **Article VI – Meetings**

3. Within two weeks after the meeting of the Senate at which the results of elections of new members are announced, a meeting of the newly constituted Senate shall be held ~~to elect officers and Executive Committee members of the ensuing year.~~ If a date has not already been set for this meeting in the yearly calendar of Senate meetings, the time and place shall be set by the out-going ~~Chairperson~~ and Executive Committee. The out-going ~~Chairperson~~ shall preside at this meeting. Newly elected officers shall assume their duties at the close of this meeting. Out-going senators shall have no vote.