

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS

MARCH 12, 2015

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, the motion seconded, and discussion ensued. 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.

At the **February 19, 2015 Faculty Senate** meeting, the Faculty Senate authorized a referendum of the General Faculty on the corresponding changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate (Articles III, IV, V, and VI). Also, changes to Sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.6, 5.7 of the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate were moved for approval, and the motion was seconded.

An electronic ballot was distributed to faculty on March 2, 2015 and voting was closed on March 6, 2015.

RESULTS of the question to approve proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution, Articles III, IV, V, and VI: **143 Approve, 13 Disapprove, 3 Abstain.**
The changes are approved.

Pursuant to the approval of the changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate documented on March 6, 2015, the following changes to Sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.6, 5.7 of the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate are now returned for a vote per Section 12.1 of the By-Laws, Amendment of By-Laws.

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/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.