

LSU FACULTY SENATE CONSTITUTION  
As Amended Through January 2005

**Constitution**

Article I. Nature and Functions

1. The Faculty Senate shall consist of members of the Faculty Council duly elected in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
2. The Faculty Senate shall possess all of the powers conferred upon the Faculty Council by regulations of the Board of Supervisors or otherwise, and shall exercise such powers in a manner consistent with the policies of the Faculty Council as stated in the Handbook: "The Faculty Council is charged to establish curricula, fix standards of instruction, determine requirements for degrees, and generally determine educational policy for the University, subject to the authority of the Board of Supervisors. Within the framework of the educational policy of the LSU System, the Faculty Council may establish its own educational policies and may exercise legislative power over all matters pertaining to its own meetings." Such power shall be exercised by the Senate at any and all times when the Council is not in session. The Senate shall represent the Council in all matters and shall be deemed to voice the policies, opinions, and sentiments of the Council on any matter within its jurisdiction.
3. In particular,<sup>1</sup> the Faculty Senate may suggest action as well as make inquiries and recommendations to the Provost to the LSU Chancellor and/or the LSU System President, on any aspect of University life, such as, but not limited to, the following:
  - Conditions affecting academic freedom.
  - Criteria, policies and procedures regarding faculty appointment, conditions of work, dismissal, evaluations, grievances, promotions, tenure, retirement, and salaries.
  - Buildings, equipment, and facilities.
  - The rights and responsibilities of students, and student affairs generally.
  - Criteria and procedures for the selection of the administrative personnel and academic officers of the University.
  - In communication with Faculty Senates, or corresponding bodies, of other campuses: Criteria and procedures for the selection of the LSU Chancellor, or President of the LSU System.
  - The University's role, scope, mission, organization, budget development and planning.
4. The Senate shall consider any matter, within its jurisdiction, on its own initiative or which is brought to its attention by resolution of the Faculty Council; it may consider any matter within its jurisdiction at the request of the University or at the request of a member or members of the Faculty Council.

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<sup>1</sup> Section I.3 was added by a Constitutional amendment, recommended by Senate Resolution 04-03 and adopted by the Faculty Council. The vote was 619-23.

5. The Senate shall maintain liaison with all other segments of the University community and with other interested groups and individuals.
6. The Senate shall present a report of its activities and actions to the Council at each regular meeting of the Council and at such other time or times as the Council shall by resolution provide.
7. At any meeting of the Faculty Council for which the item is on the Agenda<sup>2</sup> distributed prior to the meeting, the Council may, by vote of a majority of those present and voting, review, modify, overrule, or otherwise deal with any action taken by the Faculty Senate. Upon the written request of 50 members or 10 percent of the Faculty Council, whichever is the smaller number, final action of the Senate shall be submitted to the Council for review. Upon written request of a majority of the Senate, any pending matter may be referred to the Faculty Council for final action.

### Article II. Membership<sup>3</sup>

1. Members of the Faculty Senate shall be elected by their respective college school faculties on the basis of one representative for each 25 members of the Faculty Council, or major fraction thereof, as determined on the first day of the spring semester, provided that each college and-school not within a college-shall have at least one representative.
2. Allocations shall be made by the Senate Executive Committee. Any dispute arising from such allocations shall be determined finally by the Senate.
3. All members of the Faculty Council, including those who are department heads or chairs, shall be eligible for election to the Faculty Senate, with the exception of members of the Executive Council other than the President of the Faculty Senate and members of the Council of Academic Deans and Directors. Department heads or chairs may, however, be ineligible for membership on certain Faculty Senate committees, as dictated by the Bylaws. Eligibility for Faculty Senate membership shall be determined as of the date of the election, and questions of eligibility shall be determined by majority vote of the Senate. In the event that any member of the Senate shall terminate membership in the Faculty Council, or Senate, or become a member of the Executive Council, other than the President of the Faculty Senate, or become a member of the Council of Academic Deans and Directors, or shall resign from the Senate, the seat shall be declared vacant and appropriate steps shall be taken under the provisions of this Constitution to fill the vacancy. The Senate may by bylaw or resolution create reasonable conditions for continued membership in the Senate not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.
4. The term of office of members of the Faculty Senate shall be three years. Terms of office shall begin on the first regular class day of the fall semester. Members elected to fill unexpired terms shall serve until the expiration of such period.
5. No member of the Faculty Senate shall be eligible for re-election until a period of one year has elapsed since that member's last service in the Senate.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See also sections II.I and V.I of the Bylaws.

<sup>3</sup> See also Articles VI of the Bylaws.

<sup>4</sup> According to an interpretation approved 6/3/04 by the Executive Committee, "service in the Senate" during the past year, if it is a matter of an Alternate taking an unexpired term or replacing an absent Senator under Section VI.4 of the Bylaws, does not count in this sense. That is, if the service during the past year does not

### Article III. Election of Members<sup>5</sup>

1. The procedures of nomination and election of members of the Faculty Senate shall be administered by the Election Committee of the Senate<sup>6</sup> or by persons designated by the committee for that purpose. All disputes arising out of the nomination or election of members and not resolved by the election committee of the Senate shall be determined by majority vote of the Senate.
2. The election of members of the Faculty Senate shall be conducted during the month of April in each year, with one-third of the membership to be elected in each year. The Senate shall determine and publish the method of nomination and election of its members, provided, however, that each member of the Faculty Council shall at all times be entitled to nominate candidates and to vote for each Senate seat allocated to that member's college or school not within a college.
3. The names of all persons elected to the Faculty Senate, together with their college or school affiliation, shall be published in LSU Today or other University publication.

### Article IV. Officers

1. The Faculty Senate shall elect from its membership a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary. The elected term for officers of the Senate shall be one year. The Senate shall enact procedures for the nomination and election of its officers.<sup>7</sup>
2. The Faculty Senate may create such additional offices as may be deemed necessary or desirable.

### Article V. Meetings

1. The Faculty Senate shall hold at least nine meetings during the period from August through May.<sup>8</sup>
2. Special meetings of the Faculty Senate may be called at any time by the President of the Senate and shall be called by the President upon the written request of 20 members of the members of the Senate.
3. Fifty percent of the authorized membership of the Senate shall constitute a quorum<sup>9</sup> for the transaction of business at a Senate meeting.
4. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate shall record detailed minutes of the proceedings of all meetings. The minutes of the Faculty Senate shall be available for inspection upon the request of any member of the Faculty Council. The secretary of the Faculty Senate shall

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result from the person's being elected directly to the position of Senator, then that service does not make the person ineligible to be elected to a three-year term.

<sup>5</sup> See also Article III of the Bylaws.

<sup>6</sup> See the Bylaws, Section V.1.

<sup>7</sup> See the Bylaws, Article VII.

<sup>8</sup> See the Bylaws, Section I.4

<sup>9</sup> Interpretation: A ruling made in January 2005 states that elected Senators, including those duly designated as Senators for a semester or more, count toward a quorum; alternate representatives do not, and absent Senators who assign proxies do not.

publish or circulate to all members of the Faculty Council a written summary of transactions of each meeting of the Senate.

5. Normally, final action will not be taken on an item at either a regular or special meeting of the Faculty Senate that has not previously appeared on an agenda of the Faculty Senate circulated at least three working days in advance to all members of the Faculty Senate.
6. Resolutions announced on the agenda or introduced during a meeting of the Senate normally shall be voted on at the next meeting. However, by a two-thirds vote of those present and comprising a quorum, the Senate may elect to vote on a resolution during the meeting at which it was introduced.
7. Meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be open all members of the Faculty Council, and they shall be eligible to speak at Faculty Senate meetings.

#### Article VI. Committees

1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and three other members elected by the Senate. The immediate Past President shall serve as an *ex officio* member on the Executive Committee. During any given academic year, not more than two of the six voting members of the Executive Committee may be from the same college or school not within a college.
2. The Executive Committee shall implement policy as directed by the Senate. In addition, it shall represent the Senate in dealings with University officials and others, prepare agenda for Senate meetings, and appoint all nonelected members of Senate committees. If issues arise which require immediate response or action, the Executive Committee is empowered to act for the Senate. The full Senate shall receive notification of such action at or before its next meeting.
3. From the end of the spring semester to the first fall class day, the Executive Committee will consist of the current year members and the elected members for the next academic year. All members of the Executive Committee shall have voting privileges during this period.
4. The Faculty Senate shall have other standing and special committees as may from time to time be created by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, or by action of the Faculty Senate.
5. Any member of the Faculty Council, Executive Council, Council of Academic Deans and Directors, and the student body is eligible for appointment to any committee of the Faculty Senate, unless specifically excluded by the committee membership as defined in the Faculty Senate Bylaws. All chairs of committees shall be faculty members. Members of the Executive Council (other than the President of the Faculty Senate) and members of the Council of Academic Deans and Directors are ineligible to serve as chairs of Faculty Senate committees.

#### Article VII. Amendments

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Faculty Senate or by any member of the Faculty Council.

2. Amendments to this Constitution shall become effective upon adoption by the Faculty Council by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Faculty Council present at the meeting and comprising a quorum. Amendments may also become effective upon adoption by mail ballot in which twenty-five per cent of the Faculty Council respond and two-thirds of those responding approve.
3. The Executive Committee shall review this Constitution and the Faculty Senate Bylaws every year that ends in zero or five and make appropriate recommendations for revisions, when needed.