

# **Constitution of The University of Louisiana at Monroe Faculty Senate**

Adopted March 23, 1973, by the General Faculty

## **Article I NAME**

This organization shall be known as the Faculty Senate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe, hereinafter referred to as the Faculty Senate.

## **Article II PURPOSES**

The purposes of the Faculty Senate are:

1. To provide a framework for cooperation between the faculty, administration, and students in order to accomplish the goals of the University of Louisiana at Monroe.
2. To afford each faculty member an opportunity to offer suggestions concerning the development and operation of the University and the improvement of the general welfare of the faculty.
3. To provide a means whereby the administration can refer academic, operational, or common interest matters to a body representing the entire faculty.
4. To provide a means whereby representatives of the faculty can offer recommendations to the administration pertaining to the academic and operational improvement of the University and matters concerning the improvement of the general welfare of the faculty.

## **Article III MEMBERSHIP**

Full-time (75% and above) faculty with the rank of instructor or above, excluding administrative officers and budget unit heads at the University, are hereinafter referred to as General Faculty. Membership in the Faculty Senate shall be restricted to General Faculty. [01](#)

## **Article IV OFFICERS**

All officers of the Faculty Senate shall be elected members of the Faculty Senate. Officers who shall be elected by members of the Faculty Senate are President, President-Elect, Secretary and Secretary-Elect. [02](#)

## **Article V EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The officers of the Faculty Senate shall function as the Executive Board. Duties of the Executive Board are stipulated in the By-Laws. The Executive Board shall include: President, Past President, [03](#) President-Elect, Secretary, and Secretary-Elect. [04](#)

## **Article VI PARLIMENTARIAN**

The President shall appoint a Parliamentarian. Duties of the Parliamentarian are stipulated in the By-Laws.

## **Article VII ELECTIONS**

### **Section 1. Members of the Faculty Senate**

Members of the Faculty Senate shall be elected during the first half of March of each academic year. The Election Committee shall be responsible for conducting the election of Faculty Senators as provided for in the By-Laws. [05](#)

### **Section 2. Officers of the Faculty Senate**

Officers of the Faculty Senate shall be elected at the first regular Faculty Senate meeting of each academic year. Each elective officer shall be elected by a majority vote. The Faculty Senate shall have the option of using an open or secret ballot in the election of officers.

## **Article VIII COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Standing Committees**

The Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate are:

- Academic Standards [06](#)
- Constitution and By-Laws
- Elections
- Faculty Welfare
- Fiscal Affairs [07](#)

Functions of these committees are stipulated in the By-Laws.

## **Section 2. Ad Hoc Committees**

Ad Hoc Committees may be appointed as needed by the President of the Faculty Senate.

## **Article IX MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Regular Meetings**

The Faculty Senate shall have at least eight (8) scheduled meetings, August through May. [08](#)

### **Section 2. Special Meetings**

Special Meetings Special meetings of the Faculty Senate may be called as defined in the By-Laws. Rules governing the conduct of business for both regular and special meetings are stipulated in the By-Laws.

## **Article X AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1. Vote on Amendments**

The Constitution of the Faculty Senate shall be amended only at a regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the senators present.

### **Section 2. Written Notice of Amendments**

No proposition to amend shall be acted upon unless written notice has been given to the Secretary at least thirty days prior to the meeting. A copy of such a proposition shall be included in the call for the next regular meeting. A copy shall be sent to each member of the General Faculty at least ten days before the date of the next regular meeting at which the vote on the amendment is taken.

## **Article XI EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS CONSTITUTION**

The provisions of this document and amendments thereto shall become effective on the date it is approved by the Faculty Senate and General Faculty. This constitution supersedes all other constitutional provisions governing the Faculty Senate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

# **By-Laws of the Constitution**

## **The University of Louisiana at Monroe**

### **Faculty Senate**

Adopted March 23, 1973, by the General Faculty

#### **Article I**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

##### **Section 1. Eligibility**

Members of the Faculty Senate shall be elected from the General Faculty as defined in the Constitution.

##### **Section 2. Proportionate Representation**

From each of the colleges and the University Library, there will be one senator elected for every fifteen General Faculty members or major portion thereof (8 or more), it being understood that each college shall be entitled to at least one senator. A second senator from the same administrative unit may serve if the total number of General Faculty in that unit is twenty-three or more. An administrative unit of a college may exceed its normal representation if there are insufficient candidates from other units in that college to provide the college its allowed representation. [09](#)

##### **Section 3. Terms of Office**

Representatives shall be elected during the spring semester and shall serve two year terms of office, to begin on July 1st of the year elected. [10](#)

##### **Section 4. Replacement**

A. In case of decease, resignation, incapacity, change of status, or irregular attendance of any Faculty Senator, the Faculty Senate President, with the advice of the representative or representatives of the college concerned, shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired term, such appointment to be approved by the Faculty Senate at the next regular meeting of the Senate following the appointment. [11](#) Irregular attendance shall be defined as absence without proper excuse from two or more regular meetings in any one semester. [12](#)

B. Any Faculty Senator who finds it necessary to miss more than two (2) meetings in a semester due to health concerns (in compliance with FMLA), military service, or academic considerations (e.g. teaching abroad for a semester or sabbatical) may remain a Faculty Senator. The Senator may name a replacement representative for the duration of that semester who will be allowed to function as a regular senator, including voting. [13](#)

## **Article II OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. Duties**

**President:** The President's duties shall be to preside at the meetings of the Faculty Senate, to construct an agenda for each meeting prior to the date of the meeting, to serve as official spokesman for the Faculty Senate, to appoint ad hoc committees, to appoint standing committees with the approval of the majority of the Faculty Senate, and to implement the decisions of the Faculty Senate. The President shall also appoint a Parliamentarian.

**Past President:** The immediate past President shall serve on the Executive Board of the Senate for the period of one year. [14](#)

**President-Elect:** The President-Elect's duties shall be to act in the place of the President of the Faculty Senate when the President is unable to carry out any of the functions of the office of President. The President-Elect shall succeed the President.

**Secretary:** The Secretary's duties shall be to distribute the agenda of meetings of the Faculty Senate, to record the minutes of the meetings and distribute summaries of these proceedings to members of the General Faculty, to carry on the necessary correspondence for the Faculty Senate, and to poll the General Faculty when requested by the Faculty Senate. The Secretary shall also maintain a current roster of the General Faculty. [15](#)

**Secretary-Elect:** The Secretary-Elect's duties shall be to act in the place of the Secretary of the Faculty Senate when the Secretary is unable to carry out any of the functions of the office of Secretary. The Secretary-Elect shall succeed the Secretary. [16](#)

### **Section 2. Terms of Office**

A. All officers of the Faculty Senate shall serve one-year terms, or serve until their successors have been duly elected.

B. If an officer-elect of the Faculty Senate is not re-elected to the Senate for the next year, he/she will serve as a Senator-at-Large in order to fulfill the term of office for which he/she was elected by the senate. [17](#)

C. If a President's term in the Senate is expiring at the end of the year of service as the President, and he/she chose not to run for re-election or was not re-elected to the Senate, he/she may continue to serve as a Senator-at-Large in order to fulfill the one year term of service on the Executive Board as Past-President. [18](#)

**Section 3.** Replacement In case of decease, resignation, change of status, or incapacity of any officer, the Faculty Senate shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired term.

### **Article III EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Past President, [19](#) President-Elect, Secretary, and Secretary-Elect. [20](#)

This group may act in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws on essential matters that arise between meetings of the Faculty Senate. The Parliamentarian shall advise the body whenever requested to do so by the Executive Board.

### **Article IV PARLIMENTARIAN**

The Duty of the Parliamentarian shall be to advise the President by ruling on the validity of the conduct of business at each meeting.

### **Article V ELECTIONS**

#### **Section 1. Nominations for Senators**

A candidate for the Faculty Senate must submit, or have submitted, to the Elections Committee a nomination petition which shall include a declaration of willingness to serve. All nominations must be received by the Elections Committee at least two weeks prior to the election date.

#### **Section 2. Voting for Senators**

A. All members of the General Faculty, as defined in the Constitution, are legal voters. In cases where faculty members have no direct affiliation with an academic college, voting shall take place in the college which offers the courses taught by the respective faculty members.

B. Voting faculty shall cast no more than one vote for a candidate. No more than one senator shall be elected from the same administrative unit directly reporting to the dean of the college except where the number of these units is less than the total number of possible senate openings per college. [21](#) Candidates will be ranked according to the number of votes received and those elected will be determined by descending order of votes received. Where one candidate is to be elected, the candidate must receive more votes than any other candidate in that college. In case of ties, runoffs will be conducted and the above decision rule will be employed.

C. The Elections Committee shall supervise elections of senators in each of the academic colleges and shall certify the election of each senator.

### **Article VI**

## COMMITTEES

### Section 1. Formation

The President shall appoint three senators to all standing committees with the exception of the Election Committee. The President shall appoint one senator from each academic college to serve on the Election Committee. A senator shall not be a member of more than two standing committees. Each standing and ad hoc committee shall have the authority to select non-senate members of the General Faculty to serve on that committee. Each standing and ad hoc committee shall elect its chairman.

### Section 2. Standing Committees

A. Academic Standards: The purpose of this committee shall be to research, report on, and recommend to the Faculty Senate actions relevant to the academic standards of the University. All matters submitted to the committee shall be in writing. All recommendations by the committee to the Faculty Senate shall be in writing. [22](#)

B. Constitution and By-Laws: The purpose of this committee shall be to study needed changes in the Constitution and By-Laws and to recommend amendments of these documents to the Faculty Senate. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.

C. Election: The functions of this committee shall be:

1. To establish procedures and provide the calendar for elections.
2. To notify the General Faculty of each college of the number of senatorial positions that are eligible to be filled. Such notification will be made early in the spring semester prior to each election.
3. To supervise the polling and counting of votes and to provide certification of winning candidates. Each member on the committee shall act as election marshal for his or her college, unless he or she is a candidate for re-election. In such case, the President shall appoint another election marshal for that college. The election marshal for each college shall implement the election procedures prescribed by the committee, and shall report the certified results of the election to the chairman of the committee.

D. Faculty Welfare: The purpose of this committee shall be to research, report on, and recommend to the Faculty Senate any action to be taken on issues concerning the welfare of the General Faculty. All matters submitted to the committee shall be in writing. All recommendations to the Faculty Senate shall be in writing.

E. Fiscal Affairs: The purpose of this committee shall be to receive the University budget each year, to study the budget, and to make the budget and information concerning the budget available to the Faculty. The committee may consider other matters concerning the fiscal affairs of the University which are referred to the committee by the Senate or the President of the Senate. All recommendations by the committee to the Faculty Senate shall be in writing. [23](#)

Section 3. Ad Hoc Committee An Ad Hoc Committee shall research and recommend action on specific matters assigned to it.

## **Article VII MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Regular Meetings**

The Faculty Senate shall have at least eight (8) regularly scheduled meetings, August through May. [24](#) Written notice, including the agenda, of all regular meetings shall be sent to the members at least one week prior to each meeting. [25](#)

### **Section 2. Special Meetings**

Special Meetings of the Faculty Senate may be called by the Secretary at the request of the President, or on written request of 25 percent of the senators.

### **Section 3. Quorum**

A majority of the Faculty Senate's membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

### **Section 4. Minutes**

A complete and permanent set of the minutes of each meeting shall be kept by the Secretary. The secretary shall send to members of the General Faculty a summary report of the business transacted.

### **Section 5. Guests**

Meetings of the Faculty Senate are regularly open to attendance by all members of the General Faculty. The Faculty Senate may choose to go into executive session by a majority vote of the members present. A person not a member of the Faculty Senate may speak only by invitation of the Faculty Senate. Requests from non-members to speak before the Faculty Senate shall be addressed in writing to the President.

### **Section 6. Conduct of Meetings**

The conduct of the Faculty Senate business shall be according to procedures outlined by Robert's Rules of Order (Revised).

### **Section 7. Order of Business**

The order of business to be followed at the meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be as follows:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Approval of Minutes
- C. Reports of Committees
- D. Unfinished Business
- E. New Business
- F. Adjournment

### **Section 8. Voting Procedure**

Voting shall be by voice or by show of hands. A roll-call shall be required when requested by at least three senators. A secret ballot requires a majority vote of the Faculty Senate. Proxy votes are only allowed for the election of an individual. The Senator designating the proxy shall give



written notice to the Secretary specifying who will cast the proxy vote and the scope of the proxy. [26](#) The presiding officer shall have a vote only in case of a tie.

## **Article VIII AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1. Vote on Amendments**

Amendments to the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate shall be made only at a regular meeting, by a majority vote of the senators present. [27](#)

### **Section 2. Written Notice of Amendments**

No proposal to amend shall be acted upon unless written notice has been given to the secretary at least thirty days prior to the meeting. A copy of such a proposal shall be included in the call for the next regular meeting, and a copy shall be sent to each member of the General Faculty at least ten days before the date of the next regular meeting at which the vote on the amendment is taken.

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## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- 01) Article III - Membership (As amended, March 20, 2003)
- 02) Article IV - Officers, Secretary-Elect (Added by amendment, February 10, 1994)
- 03) Article V - Executive Board, Past President (As amended, September 26, 1991)
- 04) Article V - Executive Board, Secretary-Elect (As amended, February 10, 1994)
- 05) Article VII – Elections, Members of the Faculty Senate (As amended, November 18, 2010)
- 06) Article VIII - Committees, Academic Standards (Added by amendment, January 14, 1993)
- 07) Article VIII - Committees, Fiscal Affairs (Added by amendment, January 15, 1976)
- 08) Article IX - Meeting, Regular Meetings (As amended, January 21, 1999)

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

- 09) Article I - Membership, Proportionate Representation (As amended, February 19, 2004)
- 10) Article I - Terms of Office (As amended, January 30, 2003)

- 11) Article I - Membership, Replacement (As amended, May 8, 1975)
- 12) Article I - Membership, Replacement (As amended, April 11, 1978)
- 13) Article I – Membership, Replacement (As amended, March 17, 2011)
- 14) Article II - Officers, Past President (As amended, September 26, 1991)
- 15) Article II - Officers, Secretary (As amended, December 9, 1975)
- 16) Article II - Officers, Secretary-Elect (Added by amendment, February 10, 1994)
- 17) Article II - Officers, Terms of Office (As amended, March 6, 1997)
- 18) Article II – Officers, Terms of Office (As amended, November 18, 2010)
- 19) Article III - Executive Board, Past President (As amended, September 26, 1991)
- 20) Article III - Executive Board, Secretary-Elect (As amended, February 10, 1994)
- 21) Article V - Elections, Voting for Senators (As amended, November 9, 1995)
- 22) Article VI - Committees, Academic Standards (Added by amendment, January 14, 1993)
- 23) Article VI - Committees, Fiscal Affairs (Added by amendment, January 15, 1976)
- 24) Article VII - Meetings, Regular Meetings (As amended, January 30, 2003)
- 25) Article VII - Meetings, Regular Meetings, Notice (As amended, April 11, 1978)
- 26) Article VII - Meetings, Voting Procedure, Proxies (As amended, March 20, 2003)
- 27) Article VIII - Amendments, Vote on Amendments (As amended, March 28, 1996)

This document is current as of May 13, 2013