

## Faculty Senate 102: Committee and Council Appointments

Steve Thomas, Faculty Senate President, 2012/13

A new class of senators has been elected. How are these individuals – and the members of the remaining two classes – assigned to the committees and councils of the Faculty Senate? Article III. Section 2 of our *Bylaws* describes the size and composition of 13 committees and councils. (**Emphasis added.**)

- A. Executive Council. Membership shall consist of the chairpersons of the standing councils and committees of the Faculty Senate; the officers of the Faculty Senate; the elected faculty representative to the University Faculty Council; and up to two at-large faculty members. Ex-officio members shall include the chief academic officer and the chief officer in charge of finance and administration. The Faculty Senate President is the chairperson of the Executive Council.
- B. Appeals Committee. Membership shall consist of **at least 18 tenured faculty members appointed to staggered three-year terms**. At least one member of the committee must have legal expertise. **This committee shall have no ex-officio members, and no member shall be an administrator at or above the level of department head.**
- C. Athletics Committee. Membership shall consist of **12 faculty members appointed to two-year staggered terms**. Ex-officio members shall include the chief campus administrative officer charged with academic affairs (or his or her designee), the Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics, the Director of Women's Athletics, the faculty chairperson of the UT Athletics Board, the Director of Student Recreation, two student athletes appointed by the Athletics Department, and two students elected by the Student Senate. The Committee will also include the following non-voting ex-officio members: the Director of the Thornton Advising Center and the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance.
- D. Benefits and Professional Development Committee. Membership shall consist of **10 faculty members**, and the chairperson of the Benefits and Professional Development Committee shall invite appropriate campus administrators to attend meetings as needed.
- E. Budget and Planning Committee. Membership shall consist of **at least 10 faculty members**. Ex-officio members shall include the chief financial officer for the campus.
- F. Committee on Nominations and Appointments. Membership shall consist of the chairs of each college, unit, or division caucus and the Faculty Senate President-Elect. The Faculty Senate President-Elect shall be the chairperson of the Committee on Nominations and Appointments.
- G. Faculty Affairs Committee. Membership shall consist of **nine faculty members, none of whom shall be an administrator at or above the level of department head.**
- H. Graduate Council. Membership shall consist of faculty representatives chosen for three-year terms from the schools and colleges of the university engaged in graduate work and two graduate students appointed by the Graduate Student Senate. Members shall be chosen in the spring term for terms to commence at the start of the next fall term.

Ex-officio members shall be the Dean of Libraries, a representative of Outreach and Continuing Education, the Director of the Center for International Education, and the chairperson of the Research Council, or their respective designees. In addition, the administrative officer having primary responsibility for graduate curriculum in each college or school shall serve as ex-officio member of the Graduate Council if that person is not a college or school representative. The chairperson of the Graduate Council (known as the Chair) is a faculty member from the Graduate Council who serves for a one-year term, following a one-year term as Vice-Chair and Chair-Elect.

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- I. Library and Information Technology Committee. Membership shall consist of **10 faculty members** representing broad interests with experience in library policies, educational and/or information technology, and research. The Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Senate may select one undergraduate student member and one graduate student member, respectively.

Ex-officio members shall include the Dean of Libraries, the chief information officer of the Office of Information Technology, the chief information officer for UTK, and the director of the Innovative Technology Center.

- J. Research Council. Membership shall consist of **at least 12 appointed faculty or faculty/administrator representatives**. In addition, there shall be three graduate students selected by the Graduate Student Senate. Ex-officio members shall include the Vice Chancellor for Research, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, the Dean of Libraries (or designee), Associate Deans for Research (or designees), and up to two additional designees. The composition of the Research Council shall reflect balance among externally funded and institutionally supported research activities, between research and other creative activity, and among disciplines. Members must be actively engaged in research or other creative activity and must (1) hold full-time or continuing part-time appointment with the rank of assistant professor or higher; and (2) perform academic duties consisting of at least half-time teaching, research, or service. A person must have served at least one year on the Research Council prior to assuming the position of Chairperson.

- K. Teaching and Learning Council. Membership shall consist of **15 appointed faculty members**, as well as three graduate students selected by the Graduate Student Senate in consultation with the chairperson of the Teaching and Learning Council and three undergraduate students selected by the Student Government Association, and/or the Director of the Honors Program, in consultation with the chairperson of the Teaching and Learning Council. The faculty members should have currently active teaching/advising responsibilities. All schools and colleges offering instruction at the graduate or undergraduate level will have at least one representative. Attempts will be made to distribute the other representatives among the colleges of the campuses. Ex-officio members shall include the Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, the Associate Dean of the Graduate School, the Director of the Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center, the Coordinator of SAIS, and the Director of the Student Success Center.

- L. Undergraduate Council. Voting membership shall consist of representatives chosen for three-year terms from the schools and colleges of the university granting baccalaureate degrees, one member of the ROTC faculty, and four students designated by the Undergraduate Academic Council. Members shall be chosen in the spring term for terms to commence at the start of the next fall term. Representatives shall be apportioned among the baccalaureate degree-granting units according to the number of degrees granted during the prior academic year, using the following table:

- M. University/System Relations Committee. Membership shall consist of **at least eight faculty members, including the elected campus representative to the University Faculty Council**. During years when the campus has a faculty representative on The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, that person will also serve on the University/System Relations Committee. The chairperson shall be a faculty member.

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Thus, our present committee structure required the appointment of at least **104 committee and council members**, in addition to the Graduate Council and the Undergraduate Council, whose members are elected separately. Recall that the 2012 apportionment of senate seats to various caucuses was only 84.

Article III. Section 1 provides these general provisions.

Except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws, council and committee members and chairpersons shall be appointed to serve a term of one year, with the expectation that chairpersons will continue to serve for at least one additional year, if requested to do so by the Faculty Senate President.

Except as noted below, Faculty Senate councils and committees shall have at least 25% new members each year, with at least 30% of council or committee members continuing service from the prior year.

To further communication and collaboration throughout the campuses, the chairperson of each council or committee has the discretion to recommend members who may or may not be elected faculty members.

### **Responsibilities of the Committee on Nominations and Appointments**

The Committee on Nominations and Appointments shall recommend council and committee members and chairpersons. [Article II. Section 9]

Council and committee members and chairpersons shall be recommended by the Committee on Nominations and Appointments and also identified in consultation with current committee chairpersons. [Article III. Section 1]

It shall be the duty of the Committee on Nominations and Appointments to recommend faculty members and chairpersons of all standing and special councils and committees of the Faculty Senate (except the chairpersons of the Executive Council, the Committee on Nominations and Appointments, the Undergraduate Council, and the Graduate Council). [Article III. Section 2 F]

### **Responsibilities of the President of the Faculty Senate**

Except as otherwise set forth in the Bylaws, the Faculty Senate President shall constitute the councils and committees based on the expressed interest and expertise of Faculty Senate members and the requirements set forth in these Bylaws. The Faculty Senate President also shall select and secure council and committee chairpersons, except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws. [Article III. Section 1]

The Faculty Senate President shall retain responsibility for all nominations of faculty to administrative committees and other bodies. [Article III. Section 2 F]

### **Responsibilities of the Faculty Senate**

At its regular September meeting, the Faculty Senate shall ratify the members of all Faculty Senate councils and committees except the Executive Council, the Committee on Nominations and Appointments, the Graduate Council, the Undergraduate Council, or as otherwise specified. [Article II. Section 9]