

Constitution of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS)

Article I: Name

The name of this Association shall be Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS).

I. No changes

Article II: Purposes

Proposed

This Association shall have as its purposes:

- 1) To represent the missions, accomplishments and needs of public universities to state agencies and to the general public of the State of Tennessee in matters of common interest and concern
- 2) To foster the role played by the Faculty in the shared governance of Tennessee's public universities
- 3) To facilitate communication and cooperation between the various Faculty Senates or equivalents of the State of Tennessee's public universities

Previous

This Association shall have as its purposes:

- 1) To facilitate communication and cooperation between the various Faculty Senates and Councils of the State of Tennessee's public universities
- 2) To foster the role played by the Faculty in the shared governance of Tennessee's public universities
- 3) To represent the missions, accomplishments and needs of public universities to state agencies and to the general public of the State of Tennessee.

II. This change reorders the priorities of TUFS

Proposed

Article III: Membership

This Association shall be composed of the Tennessee public university Faculty Senates or equivalents that elect to become members.

Previous

This Association shall be composed of the Tennessee public university Faculty Senates and Faculty Councils that elect to become members.

III. Wording was changed to emphasize “Faculty Senates or their equivalents.” Some member universities have Faculty Senates that represent the entire campus, and Faculty Councils that represent smaller units. These Councils are not equivalent to Faculty Senates.

Proposed

Article IV: Representation

The elected President of each Faculty Senate or equivalent shall serve as its voting representative. Each body shall also select a campus representative who shall participate in the discussions of the Association. It is recommended that, to ensure continuity and assist the Senate president with the relationship to the Association, the campus representative be appointed for a three-year term. In the event that neither the voting representative nor the campus representative are able to attend a meeting, the voting representative of the member body affected shall convey to the Secretary of TUFSS the name of an individual authorized to vote on the body’s behalf during that meeting.

IV. This is a new Article that gives the authority for voting to the Faculty Senate president of each member university. In addition to the FS president of each campus, each member university has a campus representative who serves a 3-year term. If the FS president is not available, the FS president must name an individual authorized to vote on their behalf, and report this to the TUFSS Secretary. This information was partially addressed in the previous Article V, section on Voting.

Proposed

Article V: Officers

The officers of the Association shall be the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, and the Immediate Past-President. They shall be known collectively as the Executive Committee. The President and the President-Elect shall serve a one-year term, and the Secretary shall serve a two-year term. These officers shall be elected by the voting representatives of the Association’s member bodies. The President and the President-Elect may not be the voting representative from their respective institutions. Except under exceptional circumstances, the Presidency shall not be held by a member university more frequently than once in four years.

The President of Tennessee University Faculty Senates shall:

- 1) Preside over general meetings of Tennessee University Faculty Senates and meetings of the Association’s Executive Committee
- 2) Provide an agenda for all meetings to the membership
- 3) Report at general meetings on all business transacted by the Executive Committee
- 4) Act as the official spokesperson for Tennessee University Faculty Senates in all external

communications

- 5) Serve as a liaison to state agencies, including the governing boards and legislative advocacy officers of the respective member public universities, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission

The President-Elect shall assist the President in the performance of constitutional duties. The President-Elect shall become President immediately upon the expiration of the President's term.

The Secretary shall maintain all TUFSS documents, record and archive minutes of meetings, and oversee the TUFSS website.

Vacancies on the Executive Committee may be filled on an interim basis by the Executive Committee. Such vacancies shall be filled by the voting representatives at the next general meeting of the Association. Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the entire cohort of voting representatives.

Previous

Article VI: Officers

The officers of the Association shall be the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, and the Immediate Past-President. They shall be known collectively as the Executive Committee. The President and the President-Elect shall serve a one-year term, and the Secretary shall serve a two-year term. These officers shall be elected by the voting representatives of the Association's member bodies. Officers of the Association shall be current or immediate past members of these constituent bodies. The President and the President-Elect may not be the voting representatives or alternate voting representatives from their respective institutions.

The President of Tennessee University Faculty Senates shall:

- 1) Preside over general meetings of Tennessee University Faculty Senates and meetings of the Association's Executive Committee
- 2) Provide an agenda for all meetings to the membership
- 3) Report at general meetings on all business transacted by the Executive Committee
- 4) Act as the official spokesperson for Tennessee University Faculty Senates in all external communications
- 5) Serve as a liaison to state agencies, including the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The President-Elect shall assist the President in the performance of constitutional duties. The President-Elect shall become President immediately upon the expiration of the President's term.

The Secretary shall keep minutes of all general meetings of the Association, and of all meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Immediate Past-President of Tennessee University Faculty Senates shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Committee for a period of one year.

Vacancies on the Executive Committee may be filled on an ad interim basis by the Executive Committee. Such vacancies shall be filled by the voting representatives at the next general meeting of the Association.

Except under exceptional circumstances, the Presidency shall alternate between a faculty member from a University of Tennessee institution, and a faculty member from a Tennessee Board of Regents institution.

Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the entire cohort of voting representatives.

V. To give all member universities an opportunity to provide leadership, member universities will not hold the presidency more frequently than once every four years. The language related to alternating between UT universities and TBR universities was deleted. The role of the TUFs secretary was expanded to include oversight of the website.

Proposed

Article VI: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the present Constitution or with any special rules adopted by the Association.

VI. This Article has been renumbered from IX to VI, otherwise no changes to the language.

Proposed

Article VII: Meetings

Two general meetings of the Association shall be held annually, during the Fall and Spring academic semesters. Two meetings, one in Summer and one in Winter, shall be held with remote attendance. The date of the next general meeting shall be fixed at the meeting immediately preceding it. The virtual meetings will be coordinated by the President. Additional meetings may be called with the approval of a majority of the entire cohort of voting representatives.

Previous

Article IV: Meetings

General meetings of the Association shall be held twice annually, during the Fall and Spring academic semesters. The date of a meeting shall be fixed at the meeting immediately preceding it.

Additional meetings may be called with the approval of a majority of the entire cohort of voting representatives. In such instances, voting may occur by mail ballot or by electronic ballot.

VII. This Article has been renumbered from IV to VII. Two additional regular meetings were added. These will be held via Zoom attendance. The intent is to increase the number of meetings without increasing the cost of meeting attendance.

Proposed

Article VIII: Voting

Each member institution shall have two representatives on TUFSS, the president of the Faculty Senate and a campus representative selected by the Senate president. The president of the Faculty Senate or designee shall be the voting member. Should the president be unable to attend a meeting, they shall notify the TUFSS Secretary of their designee.

The voting representative may designate the campus representative as the temporary voting representative in their absence, or another individual of their choice. Voting representatives shall be current members or immediate past members (within five years) of Tennessee public university Faculty Senates. Voting may occur in a face-to-face environment, by email, or by other electronic means.

Resolutions shall be considered adopted when a simple majority of member bodies have responded in the affirmative. In the case of a tie vote, the TUFSS President shall resolve the tie by casting the deciding vote.

Previous

Article V: Voting

Each member body shall be entitled to one vote. One person shall be elected by each member body as its voting representative. Each body shall also elect an alternate voting representative who shall participate in the discussions of the Association and who shall be empowered to vote in the voting representative's absence. In the event that neither the voting representative **not** the alternate voting representative are able to attend a meeting, the secretary of the member body affected shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates the name of an individual authorized to vote on the body's behalf during that meeting.

Voting representatives and alternate voting representatives shall be current members or immediate past members of Tennessee public university Faculty Senates or Councils. An immediate past member of a Faculty Senate or Council is anyone who was a member of such a body at any time in the preceding two years.

The names of the voting representative and the alternate voting representative shall be certified in writing by the secretary of each member Faculty Senate or Faculty Council. This certification shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates.

Motions to be voted on at the general meetings shall be submitted to the member bodies at least thirty days before the general meetings of the Association. The following exception to the provision holds: at general meetings, voting representatives may authorize that motions be formally written, that they lie before the member bodies for thirty days, and that they be decided by the majority electronic vote or by the majority mail vote of the entire cohort of voting representatives. Routine and operational voting may occur without thirty days-notice.

In the case of a tie vote, the President shall resolve the tie by casting the deciding vote.

VIII. This Article was renumbered from IV to VIII. Voting authority of member representation (Faculty Senate president and campus representative) of each university is clarified. The Faculty Senate president is the voting representative and they select the campus representative. If absent, the FS president can designate the campus representative or another individual as the voting rep. The voting rep must be a current or past (within 5 years) member of the university member's Faculty Senate. The FS president has to notify the TUFSS secretary of their designee (this takes the responsibility away from the FS secretary). The 30-day notice clause for motions was removed, we think that it was intended to read "resolutions," otherwise, we would not be able to approve minutes of the previous meeting. Language was simplified on voting on resolutions, a simple majority of member institutions was adopted. Typos were corrected in the previous bylaws.

Proposed

Article IX: Ad hoc Committees

TUFSS may establish such committees as it deems advisable, and shall prescribe the duties of these committees. Committee chairs shall be elected by the voting representatives.

Previous

Article VII: Standing Committees and Ad hoc Committees

Tennessee University Faculty Senates may establish such committees as it deems advisable, and

shall prescribe the duties of these committees. Committee chairs shall be elected by the voting representatives from among the voting representatives and alternate voting representatives. The term of office for Standing Committee Chairs shall be two years. Ad hoc Committee Chairs shall have their term of office specified at the time of their election. Committee members shall be elected from a list comprised of candidates proposed by the various Faculty Senates and Councils. The term of office for committee members shall be two years. Ad hoc committee members shall have their term of office specified at the time of their election.

IX. The Article was renumbered from VII to IX. TUFs does not have standing committees. It is also a relatively small organization. The process for formation of ad hoc committees and chairs was simplified so that TUFs could act more quickly on important issues.

Proposed

Article X: Amendments to the Constitution

Any proposed amendment to the constitution shall require approval by a two-thirds majority of the entire cohort of voting representatives.

X. No changes