

University Constitution Article V, Section 3

Section 3. THE SENATE POLICY COUNCILS. Five Senate Policy Councils are charged with making policy recommendations and facilitating faculty participation in shared governance in their assigned areas.

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(A) The Policy Councils are:

(1) Academic Policy: This council's area encompasses educational policy, including the creation, modification, or deletion of academic programs and units; curriculum; academic standing; relationship of academic units to each other; general policies concerning student instruction; and academic merits of candidates for administrative positions of academic significance.

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(2) Faculty Welfare: This council's area encompasses matters that support, encourage, define, and evaluate the quality of the faculty and retention of faculty members, including faculty rights and academic freedom; faculty support programs, such as fringe benefit packages; faculty diversity; and programs that improve the quality of faculty life.

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(3) Budget: This council's area encompasses budget and fiscal matters as they involve the academic mission of the University, including the recommendation of budget priorities involving academics and research, the fiscal implications of the creation, modification or deletion of academic programs, the collection and dissemination of information about University budgeting and planning; and monitoring whether the allocation of resources is consistent with Faculty Senate actions and the University's long-term and short-term strategic plans.

Deleted: Academic Planning,

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(4) Research: This council's area encompasses University policies and procedures relating to research and scholarship, including university-wide research and scholarship initiatives and strategies; research grants and contracts; research infrastructure; and other matters relating to funding or producing scholarship.

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(5) Academic Infrastructure: This council's area encompasses the University's infrastructure supporting the University's academic mission, including the provision of physical facilities and other physical resources; libraries; information technology; the campus master plan; and the availability of adequate computer, classroom, laboratory and other resources.

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(B) Responsibilities of Policy Councils. The councils make recommendations to the Senate, facilitate the implementation of policy, and serve as liaisons between the Senate and the administration within their areas. Each policy council oversees, coordinates and facilitates the work of committees which are assigned to that respective council. However, the councils have no authority to review the decisions of any committee except insofar as such decisions may be the bases of policy recommendations. The Senate Steering Committee coordinates the referring of matters to, and the receipt of recommendations from, the Senate Policy Councils.

(1) The Senate may assign Senate committees and joint committees to Senate policy councils as “contributing committees” or “Related Committees.” Contributing committees have charges of central importance to the work of that council. Related committees have charges of peripheral concern to the council or operate in areas over which faculty governance responsibility is highly limited. Presidential committees, as well as Senate and joint committees, may also be assigned to councils as related committees. A committee may be assigned to one council as a contributing committee and to one or more as a related committee.

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(2) Each Senate policy council may refer business to its contributing and related committees; direct two or more Committees to work together when appropriate; create, if necessary, ad hoc committees or task forces to deal with matters within its purview; act as a council on business within its purview for which a committee is neither available nor necessary; and initiate and participate in cooperative action with other councils.

(C) Membership of Councils: Voting members of each council shall consist of six (6) members elected by the Senate from the Senate membership, ~~one member appointed by the President or the President’s designee,~~ and the chairperson of each contributing committee. If the chairperson of a contributing committee is not an elected faculty member, then a faculty member will be elected to serve on the council by the faculty members of the Committee. The chairs of related committees to a council shall serve as non-voting members of those councils with the right to propose inquiries and other actions.

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Council members elected by the Senate serve three-year staggered terms. If an elected council member’s Senate term expires before the council term, the member will continue to serve on the council until the end of the three-year Council term.

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(D) Chair: Each policy council elects its own chair from its membership, for a one year, repeatable term. The Chair also serves on the Senate Steering Committee.

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(E) Election of members:

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Nominations for election of members of each council will be made at the first Senate meeting of the academic year. A vote will be conducted no later than the second Senate meeting of the academic year. The two nominees for each council who receive the highest number of votes will be elected to three year terms.

Deleted: Nominations in AY 2004-2005: Nominations for the election of members of each Council must be made before December 10, 2004, and elections will be held December 16, 2004 to January 7, 2005. Council members elected in January 2005 will begin their terms immediately. The period January 8, 2005 through September 29, 2005 will constitute the first year term.

¶ Staggered terms in AY 2004-2005: In order to assure that terms will be staggered so that only one-third of the members of any Council will be up for election in any given year, in AY 2004-2005 the tenure of council members will be set as follows:¶
<#>The two nominees for each Council who receive the most votes will serve three year terms,¶
<#>The two nominees for each Council who receive the next most votes will serve two year terms,¶
<#>The two nominees for each Council who receive the next most votes will serve one year terms.¶

— Proposed Revision by Constitution Committee, 11/04/05; revised 12/07/05.

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