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## Constitution of the Senate of the Faculty, May 2016

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## **Constitution of the Senate of the Faculty**

### **ARTICLE I: TITLE**

This organization shall be entitled "The Senate of the Faculty of the University of Mississippi" (the Senate).

### **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

The Senate shall be empowered to make recommendations to the Chancellor, Provost and Council of Academic Administrators on policies affecting the University and to advise on such matters as the Chancellor or Provost shall lay before it. It shall also keep the General Faculty fully informed of its recommendations. The Chair of the Senate, or a representative, shall represent the Faculty as a voting member of the Council of Academic Administrators. The Chair and other members of the Senate as directed by the Senate shall be among the representatives of the Faculty at meetings of any administrative council or other such body established, or to be established, by the Chancellor or Provost to act as advisor in administering the affairs of the University. The Senate shall recommend Senate representation to Standing University Committees to the Chancellor.

### **ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION**

#### **Section 1.**

The Senate membership shall be limited to faculty who qualify as Eligible Faculty. Eligible Faculty as used in this Constitution shall mean budget-listed, full-time, tenured or tenure-track employees of the University of Mississippi (Oxford campus) who hold the rank of Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor, except for assistant or associate deans, deans, assistant or associate Provosts, the Provost, vice chancellors, the Chancellor, or those holding other administrative positions outside of the academic departments or the libraries. Eligible Faculty must have been on the faculty at the University of Mississippi for the full current academic year.

#### **Section 2.**

The membership quota of the Senate shall consist of a minimum of one senator elected by each of the departments in the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Accountancy, the School of Applied Sciences, the School of Business Administration, the School of Education, the School of Engineering, the School of Law, the School of Pharmacy, the School of Journalism and New Media and the faculty of the University Libraries. To account for significant variation in size of departments, additional Senate seats will be allocated based on deviations from the mean size of all departments. Departments that are larger than or equal to one standard deviation from this mean will receive one extra senate seat; departments that are larger than or equal to two standard deviations from this mean will receive two extra senate seats.

#### **Section 3.**

The term of office for Senate seats shall be three years. At any given election, a senator who has served in the two previous consecutive terms or portions thereof shall be ineligible. Elections of new senators will happen on a rotating basis which will be based upon the following cycle:

Election Cycle		
Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Accountancy	African American Studies	Art & Art History
Biology <sup>1</sup>	Biology <sup>2</sup>	BioMolecular Sciences
Chemical Engineering	Civil Engineering	Chemistry & Biochemistry
Classics	Communication Sciences & Disorders	Computer & Information Systems
Economics	English <sup>2</sup>	Electrical Engineering
English <sup>1</sup>	Finance	English <sup>3</sup>
Geology	Health & Exercise Science	History <sup>3</sup>
History <sup>1</sup>	History <sup>2</sup>	Journalism <sup>2</sup>
Journalism <sup>1</sup>	Law <sup>1</sup>	Law <sup>2</sup>
Leadership & Counselor Education	Legal Studies	Library <sup>3</sup>
Library <sup>1</sup>	Library <sup>2</sup>	Management
Management Information Systems	Marketing	Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering	Modern Languages <sup>1</sup>	Modern Languages <sup>2</sup>
Music <sup>1</sup>	Music <sup>2</sup>	Nutrition & Hospitality Management
Pharmaceutics	Pharmacy Administration	Pharmacy Practice
Physics & Astronomy	Philosophy & Religion	Political Science
Psychology	Public Policy Leadership	Social Work
Sociology & Anthropology <sup>1</sup>	Sociology & Anthropology <sup>2</sup>	Teacher Education <sup>3</sup>
Teacher Education <sup>1</sup>	Teacher Education <sup>2</sup>	Theatre Arts

<sup>1</sup> Appointment one

<sup>2</sup> Appointment two

<sup>3</sup> Appointment three

If a unit should gain or lose Senate seats based upon the formula outlined in Section 2, the Executive Committee will determine where in the Election Cycle this change will be reflected.

The immediate Past Chair will serve as an ex-officio voting member of the Senate during the following Legislative Year, independent of the number of previous consecutive terms served. Any senator who has been absent for a total of four meetings during a Legislative Year (September through August) shall be removed from the Senate.

#### Section 4.

If a Senate seat becomes vacant for any reason, the term of that Senate seat shall be filled by a candidate elected from the same department. The alternate will be assigned to the same Senate committees as the senator that is being replaced.

#### Section 5.

The officers of the Senate shall be the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Secretary, and the immediate Past Chair. The Executive Committee of the Senate shall consist of these officers along with the elected Chairs of the following Standing Committees: Academic Instructional Affairs, Academic Conduct, Finance & Benefits, Development & Planning, Governance, Research & Creative Achievement, and University Services.

#### Chair.

The Chair's term shall be one year.

#### Past Chair.

The outgoing Chair shall be the Past Chair. In the event of a vacancy in the Past Chair position, the most recent Past Chair willing to serve shall assume that office. The immediate Past Chair may be eligible for an elected office during the year following incumbency.

#### Vice-Chair.

The Vice-Chair's term shall be one year.

#### Secretary.

The Secretary's term shall be one year.

In the May meeting the Senate will elect the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Secretary for the coming year. To be elected as the Chair, Vice-Chair or Secretary, the individual must have served as a member of the Faculty Senate for the full current Legislative Year preceding the vote and must have at least one year of remaining service in their Senate term. No officer who has served in that office for the five previous consecutive terms or portions thereof shall be eligible for reelection to that office. These individuals will serve as the Chair Elect, Vice-Chair Elect, and Secretary Elect until the first organizational meeting in September.

The organizational meeting of the new Senate shall be called by the Chair of the previous year during the first week of September. At this meeting, the Senate Standing Committees shall constitute themselves and each elect its own chair. Senate committee membership shall be determined by the Chair of the Senate, but continuing Senate members shall retain their previous committee membership if they so desire.

#### Section 6.

The Senate shall be considered a continuing body, and the Senate shall have the authority to create Standing Committees to make continuing studies of significant issues.

#### Section 7.

The regular meetings of the Senate shall be held as provided in the bylaws. An extraordinary meeting of the Senate shall be called by the Chair under either of the following conditions:

1. Upon majority vote of the Executive Committee of the Senate.
2. Upon written petition to the Chair by five members of the Senate.

When an extraordinary meeting is indicated by either of the methods above, the Chair must issue, within twenty-four hours, a notice of the meeting including the time and place; the meeting must be held between twenty-four and seventy-two hours (Saturdays and Sundays excepted) from the time at which the notice is issued; extraordinary meetings shall not be called during scheduled University vacation periods; the purpose of the meeting must be stated in the notice issued by the Chair.

Section 8.

The Senate shall abide by Robert's Rules of Order in conducting its business.

Section 9.

A quorum shall be defined by the bylaws of the Senate.

Section 10.

Agenda procedures shall be defined by the bylaws of the Senate.

**ARTICLE IV: AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by a majority of those voting at a meeting of the Faculty. Amendments may be submitted by vote of the Senate or by petition of any ten faculty members of professorial rank, and they must be circulated to the faculty at least one week prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered.

**MOTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL FACULTY, JANUARY 1971**

Recommendations of the Senate which are intended to be brought before the general faculty shall be automatically presented to the general faculty at the first general faculty meeting after such recommendations are made.

Amended: May 1989, August 1990, August 1995, May 2000, April 2001, November 2002, October 2004, November 2007, November 2009, May 2016.