

Proposition Number 08-14/15

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Committee Assignment Long Range Planning

Title A Proposition to Modify “Article VII – Committees” of the Faculty Senate Constitution to Remove the Duties of the Committees to the By-Laws

Proposal

It is proposed to modify the NMSU Faculty Senate Constitution by removing the descriptions of the duties of the standing committees to the Faculty Senate By-Laws. This proposition, if passed, would only become effective if the companion proposition to incorporate the committee duties into the By-Laws was also passed by the Senate.

Proposed additions to the policy (given in **red font**) and proposed deletions to the policy (given in **red-strikethrough font**) are shown below:

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section A: The standing committees of the Faculty Senate shall be the Senate Leadership Committee, Scholastic Affairs, University Affairs, Faculty Affairs, Government Affairs, and Long-Range Planning. **The duties of each committee are specified in a By-Law of the Faculty Senate.**

Section B: The **functions and** membership of the standing committees shall be as follows:

1. Senate Leadership Committee: ~~The duties of the Senate Leadership Committee shall be: (a) to elect the Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate; (b) to initiate, carry out, or lead senate discussions of such topics as it deems appropriate, including the formation of ad hoc or special committees; (c) review the implementation of any legislation adopted by the senate and to reporting of the status of that legislation to the full senate; (d) review the balance of the Faculty Senate Operating Budget and activity in that account once each semester; (e) oversee the scheduling of the time and place of each regular meeting of the Faculty Senate; (f) oversee the scheduling of the time and place of each regular meeting of the Faculty Senate; (g) expedite and monitor electronic communications with and voting on emergency issues by Faculty Senators during those intervals outside of the regular academic year.~~ The Senate Leadership Committee shall consist of one member from each senate electing group for each five elected senators or major fraction thereof. Each electing group shall have at least one member regardless of its senate representation. Vacancies shall be filled by the elected senators from the senate electing groups. The four standing committee Chairs will serve as members.
2. Committees on Scholastic Affairs, University Affairs, Faculty Affairs, and Long-Range Planning: ~~The other standing committees shall consider propositions referred to them as described in Article IX, as well as actively develop and prepare for Faculty Senate consideration~~

~~such policies and propositions as may seem beneficial to the university, particularly in areas suggested by their names. In doing so, they may, through hearings and requests for information, draw on the resources of the university and its administration. Each committee shall have the right to create and constitute subcommittees consisting of individuals whom it designates; such subcommittees shall be chaired by a member of the constituting committee.~~ Each committee shall consist of at least 13 voting members as assigned from the elected senators by the Senate Leadership Committee. Senators not employed on the main campus need not be counted in the determination of a quorum. Each elected senator shall serve on one, and no more than one, of these four committees, with the exception of the Chair of the Senate Leadership Committee, who need only serve on that committee. Each committee shall elect a Chair at its first meeting.

3. Committee on Government Affairs: ~~The duties of the Committee on Government Affairs shall be to identify New Mexico government issues of concern to faculty, monitor developments at the state and local levels that affect higher education, and inform the Senate of these developments along with any recommended appropriate responses. This committee shall also keep the NMSU Administration informed through the NMSU Office of Government Relations on any pending faculty senate propositions addressing government affairs external to NMSU.~~ **Membership:** This Committee will consist of seven faculty senate voting members, representing at least three senate electing groups, ~~nominated~~ **elected** by the Faculty Senate. The Chair is elected by the Committee at the last meeting of the academic year. The Faculty Senate Chair and Senior Director of the NMSU Office of Government Relations shall be ex-officio members.

4. Committee of the Whole: The Faculty Senate by majority vote may convene as a Committee of the Whole to discuss and shape possible legislation pertaining to a particular issue. While sitting as a Committee of the Whole, the Faculty Senate may not pass new resolutions.

Section C: A term of committee membership shall be 1 year. Members may serve more than one term.

Rationale

By moving the duties of the standing committees to the By-Laws, it becomes easier for the Faculty Senate to respond to changing needs since changes to the By-Laws require approval of the Faculty Senate while changes to the Constitution require approval of the NMSU Faculty. Thus the need for lengthy University-wide voting is needed only for substantial and significant changes in the purpose and organization of the Faculty Senate.