

Overview: Changes to the WVU Faculty Senate Constitution

The proposed changes to the WVU Faculty Senate Constitution are outlined in the Constitution itself, as well as the reasons for the proposed changes in comments in the electronic document.

This overview serves to highlight the larger proposed changes. Note that, overall, the changes do not amount to a substantive change in the Constitution. Fundamentally, the Assembly and Senate operate as they did before, which was the intent of the changes. These changes are meant to enhance clarity and efficiency.

1. Eligibility for the Faculty Assembly is updated to parallel the definition used by the Board of Governors to define WVU Faculty.
2. All Senate Committee chairs and Senate officers are automatically made members of the Senate (if they weren't before).
3. Caps the maximum size of any one constituency of the Senate to be just under what is needed for a quorum for the Senate-and clarifies that the Faculty Senate Office is responsible for verifying the size of constituencies, even though constituencies may self-report their size.
4. Eliminates the requirement for a regular June Senate meeting.
5. The University President and Provost are accorded the right to address the Senate (they would not need to be recognized, which is the rule now).
6. Senators that fail to attend at least one Senate meeting per academic semester can be removed from the Senate.
7. The Executive Committee can add Standing Committee Chairs to its membership, at its own discretion.
8. Chairs of Senate Standing Committees must either be present Senators, or Chair-Elects the previous year. Chair-Elects of Standing Committees must be Senators, or have been a member of the respective Standing Committee during the previous three years.
9. Senate Committees determine the voting status of their own ex officio members.
10. Allows for removal of the Senate Chair if they fail to perform their duties for two consecutive months. Allows for any member of the Senate to be removed by Senate vote.
11. Allows the Faculty Secretary to determine how to fill vacant senate seats when there was no runner up in the most recent election.
12. Updates language to be consistent with recent legislative actions, including the removal of language that acknowledges the HEPC as a governing authority.