

To: WVU University Assembly
From: Corey Hunt, Faculty Senate Office Administrator
Date: February 2, 2026
Re: Faculty Constitution Revision Summary and Comparison

West Virginia University Faculty Senate Faculty Constitution Revision Summary and Comparison (2018 – 2025)

History and Context

Following a series of stresses on WVU's shared governance institutions in the early 2020s, including COVID, "Academic Transformation," and the shift toward increased use of electronic meeting formats, it was deemed appropriate in 2023–2024 to update our Faculty Constitution so that we could more effectively aggregate faculty voice and encourage active use of the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate Leadership Group at that time therefore carried out an in-depth review of the constitution and proposed a series of updates.

To ensure a careful and inclusive review involving input from many senators representing the full breadth of the university, the Shared Governance Committee took up the proposed updates in 2024–2025, supporting some of the proposed changes while refining or reversing others. In the spring of 2025, a subcommittee of the Executive Committee was tasked with settling a few remaining issues in the text. That group met over the summer of 2025, and its work was presented to the Senate's Executive Committee in October. The Executive Committee will take it up as a business item on November 17, 2025.

Throughout this process, a number of significant challenges were identified, and this proposed revision is the product of the work of many elected senators representing the wide breadth of WVU's institutions, all working in concert to promote shared governance and to create a more dynamic and representative WVU Faculty Senate and University Assembly that will be easier for faculty members to activate in emergency situations. More broadly, strengthened language appears throughout the early sections of the document, including the addition of Article I, which affirms our firm belief in the importance of practicing shared governance throughout WVU and across all levels of university decision-making.

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Executive Summary of Proposed Changes: 2018 vs. 2025 Draft

- **Preamble:** Expands discussion of shared governance and adds references to broader engagement of faculty, staff, students, and administrators.
- **Article I:** The Proposed constitution adds a new Article I, “The Shared Role of Faculty in University Governance”, explicitly defining shared governance and framing faculty as partners in academics, research, and service.
- **Article II:** Renamed “University Faculty Assembly.” Narrows University Faculty Assembly membership by excluding more administrative roles and anyone not subject to annual P&T evaluation. Petition for Assembly meetings and reconsideration of Senate actions are defined with separate purposes and quorum requirements. The number of faculty needed to successfully petition for a special meeting of the Assembly is raised (from 5% to 15%), but quorum requirements would no longer be needed for a meeting of such an Assembly and a vote on its subject matter would be electronic, subsequent to the assembly meeting.
- **Article III:** Retains the structure of the Faculty Senate but expands on shared governance, reduces maximum constituency representation to 25% (from 39%), and increases minimum representation to two per constituency. Term limit expanded from five of the last six years to six consecutive years served, with associated ineligibility period expanded from 1 to 2 years.
- **Article IV:** Adds the Leadership Council as a new constitutional committee. Curriculum Committee added as constitutional from current classification as standing. Representation from Potomac State and WVU Tech added to Executive Committee, and changes the role of the President, Provost, and Dean of Health Sciences from voting to non-voting ex officio members.
- **Article V:** Clarifies Faculty Senate Secretary term limits, duties, and expectations for release time and administrative support. Term limit of four consecutive terms.
- **Article VI:** Adjusts term and appointment details for Faculty Representative to State Government, modifying term length from 1 to 2 years and adding a 25% workload release.
- **Article VII:** Updates alignment with WV Code §18B-2A-1, clarifies vacancy succession, and limits governing board representative terms to four consecutive terms.

- **Article VIII:** Changes member removal vote requirement from 60% to 2/3 of Faculty Senate membership.
- **Article IX:** Moves from mixed mail and electronic voting to fully electronic, redefines ratification requirement from 2/3 of respondents to a simple majority (50% + 1) of Assembly membership.

Revised Articles (2018 – 2025)

These sections present full-text comparisons between the 2018 Faculty Constitution and the proposed 2025 revisions for all articles in which policy, procedure, or definitions have been modified. While this document highlights major revisions, members are encouraged to review both the current and proposed constitutions in their entirety to ensure full awareness of all changes

Preamble

2018 (Current)

Traditions of the academic community in general and of West Virginia University in particular demand that the faculties of the colleges, schools, and divisional campuses of West Virginia University participate fully in the governance of the University. It is recognized that legal authority to guide and regulate the University is vested by the West Virginia Legislature in the West Virginia University Board of Governors through the President of the University. Campus Presidents at Potomac State College of WVU and the WVU Institute of Technology report to the President of the University through the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. It is recognized that the faculties of the divisional campuses of WVU will pursue their own governance as needed, consistent with University policies and practices, but will be represented in the Faculty Senate. It is further recognized that as a corollary of academic freedom, the faculty has a responsibility for guiding the academic pursuits of the University as well as for guiding the academic pursuits of each campus, college, school, or their equivalent in the University. The University faculty acknowledges responsibility to communicate its views on matters bearing upon the academic program to those exercising legal authority over the institution. To that end, this Constitution is established to facilitate a meaningful flow of information and to further understanding among the faculty, administration, students, and staff; and to assist the President and the governing and policy boards in developing University policy.

2025 (Proposed)

Traditions of the academic community in general and of West Virginia University in particular demand that the faculties of the colleges, schools, and divisional campuses of West Virginia

University participate fully in the governance of the University. It is recognized that legal authority to guide and regulate the University is vested by the West Virginia Legislature in the West Virginia University Board of Governors through the President of the University. Campus Presidents at Potomac State College of WVU and the WVU Institute of Technology report to the President of the University through the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. It is recognized that the faculties of the divisional campuses of WVU will pursue their own governance as needed, consistent with University policies and practices but will be represented in the Faculty Senate. It is further recognized that as a corollary of academic freedom, the faculty has a responsibility for guiding the academic and scholarly pursuits of the University as well as for guiding the academic and scholarly pursuits of each campus, college, school, and their equivalent in the University. Shared governance at West Virginia University is a responsibility that extends across all levels of the institution, requiring the active engagement of faculty, staff, students, administrators, and governing boards in shaping the mission, priorities, and policies of the University. To that end, this Constitution is established to facilitate a meaningful flow of information and to further understanding among the faculty, administration, students, and staff; and to assist the President and the governing and policy boards in developing University policy.

Article I – The Shared Role of Faculty in University Governance (NEW)

2025 (Proposed)

Shared governance is the set of practices through which the University faculty, in collaboration with staff, students, and administrators, participate in significant decisions concerning the institution's operation while upholding administrative accountability. As Olson (2009) stated "True shared governance attempts to balance maximum participation in decision making with clear accountability." At WVU, shared governance is a collective responsibility in which all University constituencies contribute to decision-making in ways appropriate to their roles and expertise.

WVU faculty have shared responsibility for the establishment and execution of the mission of the University including internal matters such as academics, research and service, and external

matters such as government relations, student, faculty and staff recruitment, and alumni engagement.

At an operational level, faculty have shared responsibility in all matters dealing with the courses, curricula and academic programs offered by the University. Faculty also have shared responsibility for the establishment of policies and procedures related to academic standards, faculty affairs, the granting of degrees, student affairs, the organizational structure, and fiscal management of the institution. In brief, decisions related to faculty welfare, promotion and tenure, and academic freedom must be made with the consent of the Faculty Senate.

Shared responsibility from the faculty perspective is defined as administrative engagement and consultation with faculty, transparent sharing of information, and faculty input and feedback on educational and operational decisions. Given that important educational and operational decisions are made at the college, school, and campus levels, shared-governance bodies should be active at those levels. This may involve, in addition to Faculty Senate, college-level or campus-level bodies that include peer-selected representatives of the faculties of those colleges or campuses.

Article II – The University Faculty Assembly

[Updated from “The University Assembly”]

A. Composition

2018 (Current)

- a. The University Assembly shall include those faculty employed full time by West Virginia University, as defined by Board of Governors Rule 4.2 with the exception of those “Other Non-Tenure-Track” faculty who do not report to an academic dean or who hold appointments that are considered to be temporary in nature. Voting rights are conveyed to anyone considered to be a member of the University Assembly.
- b. Fully retired faculty shall be represented in the University Assembly by a University-recognized committee of retired faculty. Two representatives of this committee of retired faculty who are former full-time WVU faculty members shall be voting members of the University Assembly. No other retired faculty members are considered voting members of the University

Assembly, and these other retired faculty shall not be included for purposes of determining quorum.

2025 (Proposed)

1. The University Faculty Assembly shall include full-time faculty in non-temporary employment by West Virginia University on all campuses and holding an academic rank of instructor or above, with the exclusion of:
 - a. The President
 - b. The Provost
 - c. Chancellors and Regional Campus Presidents
 - d. Vice presidents of all levels
 - e. Personnel assigned to the Office of the President
 - f. Personnel assigned to the Office of the Provost
 - g. Academic deans and school chairs (department chairs and division chairs are not excluded)
 - h. Individuals with courtesy appointments
 - i. Other significant administrative roles in which the person retains their faculty appointment but is not receiving an annual P&T evaluation. Those who are not subject to the annual evaluation, promotion and tenure process are excluded from the University Faculty Assembly

This section defines University Faculty Assembly members as those who have active primary assignments in teaching, research, and/or service. Voting rights are conveyed to anyone considered to be a member of the University Faculty Assembly.

2. Fully retired faculty shall be represented in the University Faculty Assembly by a University-recognized committee of retired faculty. Two representatives of this committee of retired faculty who are former full-time WVU faculty members shall be voting members of the University Faculty Assembly. No other retired faculty members are considered voting members of the University Faculty Assembly, and these other retired faculty shall not be included for purposes of determining quorum.

B. Functions

2018 (Current)

- a. The members of the University Assembly shall elect Senators to represent constituent groups as provided in this Constitution.
- b. Members of the University Assembly may express, by formal resolution, their opinion on any question relating to policy or administration of the University.
- c. Any action of the Senate must be reconsidered by that body, if within three weeks after distribution of the minutes reporting such action, petitions submitted by at least 5% of the members of the University Assembly and stating reasons for objection to the Senate action are filed with the Faculty Secretary. If the Senate reaffirms the action so challenged, the issue must be submitted, along with appropriate documents summarizing the opposing views, to the University Assembly. The majority of ballots received by the Faculty Secretary by a specified deadline will decide the issue.

2025 (Proposed)

1. The members of the University Faculty Assembly shall elect Senators to represent constituent groups as provided in this Constitution.
2. Members of the University Faculty Assembly may express, by formal resolution, their opinion on any question relating to policy or administration of the University.
3. Any action of the Senate must be reconsidered by that body, if within three weeks after distribution of the minutes reporting such action, petitions submitted by at least 5% of the members of the University Faculty Assembly and stating reasons for objection to the Senate action are filed with the Faculty Senate Secretary. If the Senate reaffirms the action so challenged, the issue will be put before the University Faculty Assembly for an electronic vote. A simple majority (50%+1) of University Faculty Assembly members must vote to decide the issue. If a sufficient number of ballots are not received, the vote is not valid.

C. Meetings and Special Actions

2018 (Current)

3. Regular Meetings

The University Assembly shall hold one regular meeting during each academic year (typically on the second Monday of October) at which time the President shall report in detail on the state of the University. The President may make such recommendations to the University Assembly and call such problems to their attention as the President deems pertinent to its responsibility as a faculty. There shall be free discussion of any subject relating to the policy or administration of the University until such time as a majority of the members present pass a motion to limit discussion.

4. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the University Assembly may be called by the President of the University or the Faculty Senate Chair or by petition to the Faculty Senate Office of 5% of the members of the University Assembly.

2025 (Proposed)

C. State of the University

The University Faculty Assembly shall hold one meeting during each academic year (typically on the second Monday of October) at which time the President shall report in detail on the state of the University. The President may make such recommendations to the University Faculty Assembly and call such problems to their attention as the President deems pertinent to its responsibility as a faculty. There shall be free discussion on any subject relating to the policy or administration of the University until such time as a majority of the members present pass a motion to limit discussion.

D. Seeking Senate Action

Members of the University Faculty Assembly are expected to bring concerns, needs, issues to a Senator and/or a Senate Committee for consideration. Should an Assembly member wish to further pursue an issue after seeking remedies through those mechanisms, the following routes may be taken:

1. Special Actions

The University Faculty Assembly may compel the Faculty Senate to debate and vote on a resolution by submitting a petition to the Faculty Senate Office reflecting signatures of at least 5% of the members of the University Faculty Assembly. If successfully petitioned, the Faculty Senate must address the resolution at a regular or special meeting of the Senate within 14 calendar days. At that meeting, the resolution having been petitioned will move directly to debate, with a vote taken no later than thirty calendar days from the date of receipt of the petition by the Faculty Senate Office. If the Faculty Senate fails to conduct a final vote on the resolution within thirty calendar days from the receipt date of the petition, the resolution will automatically revert to the University Faculty Assembly for an electronic vote requiring a simple majority (50%+1) of the membership to decide the issue. Before any vote of the University Faculty Assembly, an open forum to discuss the issue will be held virtually. A quorum will not be required at such a forum.

2. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the University Faculty Assembly may be called by the President of the University, the Faculty Senate Chair, or by petition of at least 15% of the members of the University Faculty Assembly including at least 15% of more than one constituent body of the Faculty Senate. Should an action be brought before the University Faculty Assembly at a special meeting the vote of the University Faculty Assembly on a resolution will subsequently be held electronically and require a simple majority (50%+1) of the votes cast to decide the issue.

This section reserves Special Meetings of the University Faculty Assembly for unusual and extraordinary circumstances that damage or threaten the university's ability to carry out its mission. Members of the University Assembly are advised to seek Senate action through their elected representatives, or by using procedures listed in Section D.1 of this Article.

D. Presiding Officer [Unchanged]

E. Parliamentarian [Unchanged]

F. Notice of Meetings [Updated for clarity, no procedural changes]

G. Procedural Rules

2018 (Current)

Meetings of the University Assembly shall be conducted according to the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*. A quorum for purposes of passing binding motions and resolutions shall be 25% of members of the University Assembly, participating at locations designated by the Executive Committee, and linked by electronic media through which participants can hear each other and be heard if recognized. The Faculty Senate Office and Faculty Secretary, in co-operation with the Provost's office, shall be responsible for monitoring credentials of participants at each University Assembly to insure the validity of any actions taken therein.

2025 (Proposed)

Meetings of the University Faculty Assembly shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised at a location designated by the Faculty Senate Office, and linked by interactive virtual media for faculty with remote assignments or with special circumstances that prohibit face to face attendance. The Faculty Senate Office and Faculty Senate Secretary, in cooperation with the Provost's Office, shall be responsible for monitoring credentials of participants at each University Faculty Assembly to ensure the validity of any actions taken therein.

This section directs the Faculty Assembly to conduct face-to-face meetings whenever circumstances allow.

Article III – The Faculty Senate

H. (NEW) The Role of Faculty Senate

2025 (Proposed)

Shared governance is critical to the success and viability of West Virginia University. The Faculty Senate is the elected body representing the faculty of West Virginia University. The primary purpose of the Faculty Senate is to facilitate consequential participation of faculty in the establishment of university policies and in the formulation of procedures for their

implementation. Shared governance shapes the purpose and character of the university and defines its future direction and missions.

I. Composition and Constituencies

2018 (Current)

The Faculty Senate shall include all Senators selected in accordance with this Constitution and, if not already serving as Senators, the Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Chair, Faculty Secretary, Faculty Representatives to the Board of Governors, Faculty Representative to State Government, the Chair of the Committee on Committees, and standing committee chairs. Voting rights are conveyed to anyone considered to be a member of the Faculty Senate.

A constituency for the purposes of this Constitution is defined as an academic unit reporting directly to the WVU Morgantown campus, including divisional or satellite campuses. The basic criterion for a constituency is that it shall be under the direction of an administrative officer who is directly responsible to the WVU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs or WVU Vice President & Executive Dean for Health Sciences. Any group seeking status as a separate constituency shall present a petition signed by 25% of its members to the Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies. That Committee shall review that petition and shall within six (6) months recommend to the Senate whether the new constituency should be recognized. The affirmation of a new constituency shall be by not less than 2/3 of the members of the Senate, present and voting.

2025 (Proposed)

The Faculty Senate shall include all Senators elected in accordance with this Constitution and, if not already serving as Senators, the Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Chair, Faculty Senate Secretary, Faculty Representative to the Board of Governors, Faculty Representative to State Government, the Chair of the Committee on Committees, and standing and special committee chairs. Voting rights are conveyed to anyone considered to be a member of the Faculty Senate.

A constituency for the purposes of this Constitution shall be the group of faculty within the WVU system making up a degree granting college, campus, or school, WVU Libraries, and WVU Extension.

Such constituencies may be designated according to procedures established by the Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies, and approved and published by the Faculty Senate.

J. Review of Constituencies

2018 (Current)

The Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies shall, every three years, review the constituencies then electing members to the Senate. If the committee finds that a constituency, as defined above in Article II, Section 1, no longer exists, the Committee shall recommend to the Senate that that constituency be abolished. The abolition of a constituency shall be by not less than 2/3 of the members of the Senate, present and voting.

2025 (Proposed)

[Section merged into Composition and Constituencies]

K. Representation

2018 (Current)

There shall be at least one elected Senate member from each constituency as designated above.

The number of Senators elected from each constituency shall be based upon one elected Senator for each twenty (20) or fraction of twenty (20) members of the University Assembly who are responsible to that particular constituent administrative unit, provided that no constituency shall comprise more than 39% of the overall membership of the Senate. It shall be the responsibility of the Faculty Senate Office to ensure accurate representation of faculty in constituencies, and of the faculty populations the constituencies represent.

2025 (Proposed)

There shall be at least two elected Senate members from each constituency as designated above.

The number of Senators elected from each constituency shall be based upon one Senator for each twenty (20) or fraction of twenty (20) members of the University Faculty Assembly who are

assigned to that constituency, provided that no constituency shall comprise more than twenty-25% of the overall membership of the Senate. It shall be the responsibility of the Faculty Senate Office to ensure an accurate point-in-time count of faculty in constituencies, and an accurate calculation of Senate seats based upon that count.

L. Role of Senators

2018 (Current)

Senators must be committed to the importance of faculty governance. As elected representatives of faculty, the Senator's role is to represent the interests of the University from the perspective of his/her constituency and to communicate those interests to the Senate. Senators also have a responsibility to inform their constituents of Senate activities and decisions and provide for a meaningful flow of information as called for in the Preamble of this constitution. Senators must be prepared to take a leadership role in carrying out the functions of the Senate.

2025 (Proposed)

Senators must be committed to and participate in faculty governance and the shared governance of the University. As elected representatives of faculty, the Senator's role is to represent the interests of the University from the perspective of their constituency and to communicate those interests to the Senate. Senators are required to do the following:

1. Attend and participate in Faculty Senate meetings.
2. Regularly inform their constituents of Senate activities and decisions and encourage engagement of all faculty with the Senate.
3. Meet with their constituency's Caucus of Senators on a regular basis.
4. Serve on one or more Faculty Senate committees per year and attend and participate in committees for which they are serving.
5. Senators are expected to participate in college level shared governance committees if applicable.

M. Jurisdiction and Functions

[Updated from "Functions"]

2018 (Current)

The Senate shall have authority, as the recognized body representing faculty, to recommend general policies to the President and the governing and policy boards with regard to:

- a. Objectives and academic standards for the University, its divisional campuses, and its components;
- b. Addition, modification, and deletion of all academic programs, curricula, and courses; especially with regard to those affecting more than one college, school, or other academic division; the common course numbering system requires that course offerings on all campuses be coordinated through committees of the WVU Faculty Senate;
- c. The organizational structure of the University with reference to academic matters;
- d. Admissions, transfers, scholastic achievement and graduation requirements of the University;
- e. Responsibilities, rights and duties of faculty members, such as standards of appointments and conduct, criteria for tenure and promotion, retirement, academic freedom, salary, and the nature and conditions of their work and all matters of faculty welfare;
- f. Student life, such as standards of conduct, discipline, health, living conditions, organizations, publications, financial aid, and student participation in extracurricular activities and athletics;
- g. University convocations, lectures, entertainment, publications, and radio and television broadcasts;
- h. The academic calendar and the scheduling of classes
- i. The operation and administration of the libraries;
- j. Equipment and physical facilities;
- k. Academic recognition, including honorary degrees – subject, when relevant, to policies and procedures adopted on each of the respective divisional campuses.

Procedure: There will be two parts to the discussion of candidates in the Closed Session before a vote. First, the representative of the nominating committee shall stand for questions and discussion. Then the nominating committee member shall leave while the Senate discusses the nominees in a Closed Session with only the Senate and Faculty Senate Office staff present. The vote shall be a confidential written ballot.

1. Such other matters as shall be referred to it for study and recommendation.

2025 (Proposed)

The Senate, as the recognized body representing faculty, shall have shared responsibility for the governance of the University as outlined in Article I. The Senate shall share responsibility for:

1. Academic Affairs

- a. Educational objectives and academic standards for the WVU system
- b. Admissions and enrollment
- c. Addition, modification, and deletion of all academic programs, curricula, and courses; especially regarding those affecting more than one college, school, or other academic division; the common course numbering system requires that course offerings on all campuses be coordinated through committees of the WVU Faculty Senate
- d. The organizational structure of the University with reference to academic matters
- e. Admissions, transfers, scholastic achievement, and graduation requirements of the University
- f. The academic calendar and the scheduling of classes

2. Faculty Affairs

- a. Policies and professional standards concerning the responsibilities, rights, duties of faculty members
- b. Standards for qualifications, employment, appointments, retirement, and conduct of faculty
- c. Criteria and processes for evaluation, tenure, and promotion
- d. Criteria for equitable distribution of workload
- e. Salary
- f. The nature and conditions of faculty work
- g. Evaluation and improvement of teaching methods
- h. Academic freedom, and all matters of faculty welfare

3. Student Affairs

- a. Student life, student organizations, student participation in extracurricular activities and athletics
- b. Standards of conduct, academic integrity, professionalism, and discipline

- c. Health and living conditions
- d. Financial aid and scholarships

4. Technology

- a. Acquisition, application, distribution, and evaluation of academic, scientific and information technology
- b. Development of policy related to the application of technology that supports the collective interests of the University while not infringing upon academic freedom

5. University Planning

- a. Participate in shared governance in determining mission-related academic, research, and service priorities at the institutional level.
- b. Participate in shared governance by which distribution of appropriated resources in support of the university's teaching, research and service missions are determined.
- c. Participate in shared governance related to campus development and planning, including equipment and physical facilities.

6. University Affairs

- a. The evaluation and selection of candidates for senior University-level administrative positions
- b. University commencements, convocations, lectures, entertainment, publications, public relations, and radio and television broadcasts
- c. The operation and administration of the libraries

7. Academic, honorary, and other university recognition. Selection of honorary degree recipients subject, when relevant, to policies and procedures adopted on each of the respective divisional campuses. Discussion of candidates will occur in Executive Session, as defined in the latest version of Robert's Rules of Order, followed by a vote of the Senate in open session.

8. Such other matters referred to the Faculty Senate for study and recommendation.

N. Election of Senators [Updated for clarity; procedurally unchanged]

O. Continuity

2018 (Current)

Approximately one-third of the elected Senate members shall be elected each year from each constituency where there is more than one representative. At the first election, which shall be conducted by the existing Senate Executive Committee, one third plus whatever fraction is necessary to round off to a whole number shall be elected for a term of one year; another one third plus the fraction necessary to round off to a whole number shall be elected for a term of two years and the remainder shall be elected for three years except where there are only two representatives, these shall be elected for two and three year terms; and where there is only one representative, he/she shall be elected for a three year term.

2025 (Proposed)

Approximately one-half of the elected Senate members shall be elected every other year from each constituency where there is more than one representative. For new constituencies, at the first election, one half plus whatever fraction is necessary to round off to a whole number shall be elected for a term of two years; the other half plus the fraction necessary to round off to a whole number shall be elected for a term of three years.

P. Term of Senators**2018 (Current)**

The term of a Senator shall begin on July 1st of the year in which he/she is elected. Elected members of the Faculty Senate shall normally serve for a term of three years and until successors have been elected and have taken office. They shall be eligible to serve two consecutive full terms but shall then be ineligible for re-election until a period of one year has elapsed. Senators who have served five or more years of the previous six years without a one-year break in service shall be ineligible for re-election until a period of one year has elapsed. This could occur as a result of serving a full term and being elected to a shortened term or named to fill a vacancy.

2025 (Proposed)

The term of a Senator shall begin on July 1st of the year in which they are elected. Elected members of the Faculty Senate shall normally serve for a term of three years and until successors have been elected and have taken office. They shall be eligible to serve two consecutive full

terms but shall then be ineligible for re-election until a period of two years has elapsed. Senators who have served six or more consecutive years shall be ineligible for re-election until a period of two years have elapsed.

Q. Vacancies [Updated for clarity; procedurally unchanged]

R. Senate Meetings

[Emergency meetings merged into special meetings (redundant)]

S. Presiding Officer [Unchanged]

T. Parliamentarians

2018 (Current)

There shall be one or more Parliamentarian(s) appointed annually by the Senate Executive Committee with the consent of the Senate. The Parliamentarians are not required to be members of the Senate, but any Senator appointed as Parliamentarian shall not lose his or her right to participate and vote in Senate proceedings. The Parliamentarian(s) shall assume office July 1st of each year. The duties and responsibilities of the Parliamentarian(s) are to advise on the application of the rules of order to the proceedings of the Senate; to advise committees and committee chairs with regard to procedural questions or rules of order; to advise the Senate, or any of its officers or members, with regard to interpretation of the Constitution, rules, or policies of the Senate; and to perform such other functions as may be designated by the Chair of the Senate. In the absence of the appointed Parliamentarian(s) the Chair-Elect will fill that role. One or more of the Parliamentarians shall serve as a non-voting advisor to the Senate Executive Committee.

2025 (Proposed)

There shall be one or more Parliamentarian(s) appointed annually by the Senate Executive Committee. Parliamentarian duties are an expectation of the Faculty Senate Office but may be

drawn from other sources. Any Senator appointed as Parliamentarian shall not lose their right to participate and vote in Senate proceedings. The Parliamentarian(s) shall assume office on July 1st of each year. The duties and responsibilities of the Parliamentarian(s) are to advise on the application of the rules of order to the proceedings of the Senate; to advise committees and committee chairs with regard to procedural questions or rules of order; to advise the Senate, or any of its officers or members, with regard to interpretation of the Constitution, rules, or policies of the Senate; serve as a non-voting advisor to the Senate Executive Committee; and to perform such other functions as may be designated by the Chair of the Senate.

U. Quorum [Unchanged]

V. Guests

[Updated from “Observers”]

2018 (Current)

All Senate meetings are open meetings except those portions of meetings in which the Senate can go into Executive session to discuss matters of a sensitive or confidential nature. Any member of the University Assembly or University community may be present at Senate meetings as an observer. Any observer present at a meeting of the Senate may address the Senate upon being recognized by a member of the Senate. The President and the Provost are always accorded the right to address the Senate.

2025 (Proposed)

All Senate meetings are open meetings except those portions of meetings in which the Senate may enter executive session to discuss matters of a sensitive or confidential nature.

Without objection, the chair may at their discretion recognize a non-Senator to address the Senate. Additionally, a Senator who has the floor may request that the chair recognize a non-Senator to address the Senate on matters pertaining to Senate business. The President and the Provost are permitted to speak at the discretion of the chair.

W. Attendance

[Increased minimum attendance from one to two meetings per semester]

X. Rules of Procedure [Unchanged]

Article IV – Committees

A. Creation and Classification

2018 (Current)

The Senate shall have the power to establish committees to carry out its functions. Certain committees created by this constitution may only be established or abolished by constitutional amendment.

2025 (Proposed)

The Senate shall have the power to establish committees to carry out its functions. Certain committees created by this constitution may only be established or abolished by constitutional amendment.

Any committee established by the Senate shall govern itself and determine its own agenda, procedures, and practices subject to oversight by the Senate. It is each committee's purview in collaboration with the Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies to establish the number of committee members and the committee composition, including ex officio members.

B. Constitutional Committees [NEW]

2025 (Proposed)

Constitutional Committees are permanent committees that serve to provide core functions for the Senate. Four constitutional Committees are established: Leadership Council, Executive

Committee, Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies, and Curriculum Committee.

C. Leadership Council [NEW]

2025 (Proposed)

The Leadership Council is a constitutional committee whose membership shall be at the discretion of the Chair and should generally be composed of the Faculty Senate Chair, Chair-Elect, immediate past Chair, Secretary, Faculty Representative to the University Governing Board, and the Faculty Senate Representative to State Government. It shall be the duty of the Leadership Council to:

- a. Provide counsel and support to the Faculty Senate Chair.
- b. Invite the President of the University to meet with the Leadership Council no less than monthly to discuss and provide constructive input on current issues related to University governance, organizational structure, operations, finance, academics, research, policies, legislative priorities, faculty concerns, and other pertinent subjects.
- c. Invite the University Provost to meet with the Leadership Council no less than monthly to discuss and provide constructive input on current issues related to academics, including but not limited to curriculum, faculty workloads, the evaluation/promotion/tenure processes, faculty recruitment/retention/well-being, research, faculty concerns and other pertinent subjects.

D. Executive Committee

2018 (Current)

The Executive Committee is a constitutional committee composed of the Faculty Chair who shall be its chair, the Faculty Secretary who shall be its secretary, Faculty Chair-Elect, the immediate past Chair, the faculty representative to the University governing board elected from either the extension service or the health sciences, and seven elected members who shall be chosen by the Senate. All are voting members. The seven elected members must be Faculty Senators when they stand for election to the Executive Committee, but may serve on the Committee the year following the end of their Senate term. The seven members shall serve terms of one year, and

may stand for reelection to the Executive Committee as long as they remain Faculty Senators. No more than one Senator may be elected to the Executive Committee from any one constituency.

The President of the University, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President & Executive Dean for Health Sciences, and the Faculty Senate Representative to State Government shall be ex officio voting members. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall annually designate one or more incoming standing committee chairs to be ex officio voting members of the Executive Committee. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to:

- a. Carry out executive functions, including but not limited to:
 - i. Accept, review, advise, recommend, and initiate reports, policies, and issues relating to the functions set forth in Article II, Section 5;
 - ii. Serve as a channel through which any member of the University Assembly may introduce matters for consideration by the Senate;
 - iii. Assist in carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and actions of the Senate;
 - iv. Appoint the Faculty Secretary, subject to confirmation by the Senate;
 - v. Appoint the Faculty Senate Representative to State Government, subject to confirmation by the Senate;
 - vi. Appoint both standing and special committees of the Senate and the chairs thereof with such appointments subject to confirmation by the Senate, and to maintain liaison with these committees to insure the expeditious fulfillment of charges to the various committees, and to make appointments to other entities as appropriate;
 - vii. Prepare and submit reports and/or documents, as needed, on the work of the Senate to the University, to the President, to the University Assembly, or other groups as needed; and
 - viii. Prepare the agenda for Senate meetings including a time for the University President, or for his/her designated representative, to address the Senate, provide information or comments, and stand for questions;
- b. Act for the Senate in emergencies and report such actions to the Senate; and
- c. Appoint the members of the University-wide Promotion and Tenure Advisory Panel.

2025 (Proposed)

The Executive Committee is a constitutional committee. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Faculty Senate Chair who shall be its chair, the Faculty Senate Secretary who

shall be its secretary, the Faculty Senate Chair-Elect, the immediate past Faculty Senate Chair, the Faculty Representative to the University Board of Governors, the Faculty Representative to State Government, the Faculty Assembly Chais from WVU Institute of Technology, a senator from Potomac State College as elected by the Potomac State Faculty Assembly, and seven elected members who shall be chosen by the Senate. All are voting members. The seven elected members must be Senators when they stand for election to the Executive Committee but may serve on the Committee the year following the end of their Senate term. The Executive Committee may annually designate one or more standing committee chairs to be voting members of the Executive Committee.

The seven members shall serve terms of one year and may stand for reelection to the Executive Committee as long as they remain Senators. No more than one Senator may be elected to the Executive Committee from any one constituency. The President of the University, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Vice President and Executive Dean for Health Sciences shall be non-voting ex-officio members. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to:

- a. Carry out executive functions, including but not limited to:
 - i. Accept, review, advise, recommend, and initiate reports, policies, and issues relating to the functions set forth in Article II, Section 5.
 - ii. Serve as a channel through which any member of the University Faculty Assembly may introduce matters for consideration by the Senate.
 - iii. Assist in carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and actions of the Senate.
 - iv. Appoint the Faculty Senate Secretary, subject to confirmation by the Senate.
 - v. Appoint the Faculty Senate Representative to the State Government, subject to confirmation by the Senate.
 - vi. Appoint individuals to fill unexpired terms of Faculty Senate Secretary and Faculty Representative to State Government.
 - vii. Prepare and submit reports and/or documents, as needed, on the work of the Senate to the University, to the President, to the University Faculty Assembly, or other groups as needed.
- b. Act for the Senate in emergent and/or time sensitive situations and report such actions to the Senate.

- c. Appoint the members of the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Panel.

E. Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies

2018 (Current)

The Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies is a constitutional committee. Its size and membership shall be determined by the Senate Executive Committee subject to the approval of the Senate. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies to:

- a. Annually review and report to the Senate upon the constituencies to be represented within the University Assembly per Article II, Sections 2 and 3, and to recommend such changes as it deems necessary; and
- b. Secure capable committee members and committee chairs who have experience on their respective committees and to achieve a balance between senior and junior faculty members and among the various schools and colleges as much as possible.

2025 (Proposed)

The Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies is a constitutional committee. The Committee shall determine its size and membership, including any ex officio members, which must include at least four members of the Senate Leadership Council. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies to:

- a. Annually review and report to the Senate upon the constituencies to be represented within the University Faculty Assembly per Article III, Sections B, and recommend such changes as it deems necessary.
- b. In collaboration with the Senate Leadership Council, populate committees with members and committee chairs reflecting a balance between senior and junior faculty members and among the various schools and colleges as much as possible. Every committee must have members who are current Senators.
- c. In collaboration with the Faculty Senate Office, maintain committee membership, including removal of inactive members, and ensure the on-going functioning of each committee.

- d. Regularly report to the Senate any changes to the membership of committees.
- e. Annually review Senator attendance in the spring semester as per Article VIII and present a slate to the Senate for consideration of removal of Senators who have failed to meet minimum attendance requirements as outlined in Article III, Section O.

F. Curriculum Committee [NEW]

2025 (Proposed)

The Curriculum Committee is a constitutional committee. The Curriculum Committee shall determine its size and membership in consultation with the Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies, including any ex officio members, and shall be composed of faculty from a variety of disciplines, tracks, ranks and constituencies.

It shall be the duty of the Curriculum Committee to review and recommend curricular needs as defined in Article III, Section E.1.c for approval by the Senate utilizing clearly defined requirements for course and program proposals and without consideration of broader staffing, funding or other business factors in its deliberations. The Curriculum Committee may establish or modify the committee charge as needed following the established procedure for modifying a committee charge.

G. Standing and Special Committees [Unchanged]

H. Committee Personnel

2018 (Current)

The Chair-Elect of each standing committee must be a member of the Senate or have served in the last three years as a member of the respective committee. The Chair of each standing and special committee must be a Senator or have served as Chair-Elect the previous year. Other committee members need not be members of the Senate, but must be members of the University Assembly. Students, Staff, Administrators, and non-University persons may be asked to serve on appropriate committees as ex-officio members. The composition of committees will be established by the Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies. The voting

status of ex officio members of each committee will be established by the committee itself, with the concurrence of the Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies. Appointment to any committee shall be for one year; members may be reappointed.

2025 (Proposed)

The Chair-Elect of each standing committee must be a member of the Senate or have served for at least one year in the last three years as a member of the respective committee. Committee Chairs may serve a maximum of two consecutive years and may return as Chair after one year out of the role. Other committee members need not be members of the Senate but must be members of the University Faculty Assembly. Students, Staff, Administrators, and non-University persons may be asked to serve on appropriate committees as ex officio members to provide relevant expertise, ensure transparency, and strengthen the University's culture of shared governance. These members do not have voting privileges and may not chair the committee. The composition of committees will be established by the Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies. Appointments to any committee shall be for one year; regular members may be reappointed indefinitely. Ex officio members may serve indefinitely.

Article V – Faculty Chair and Chair-Elect

A. Eligibility [Unchanged]

B. Duties of the Chair

[2025 Proposed draft adds chair-elect as ex officio member of the Committee on Committees]

C. Term [Unchanged]

D. Election

2018 (Current)

Declared candidates for the Chair-Elect position will be introduced at the March meeting of the Senate. Chair-Elect nominations from the floor also may be made at the March meeting. At the April meeting of the Senate, the Chair-Elect candidates will be given an opportunity to present a brief statement to the Senate. Immediately following the April meeting, the Faculty Senate Office will transmit ballots to all members of the Senate. Ballots, in order to be counted, must be submitted to the Faculty Senate Office by the deadline stated on the ballot, which will be at least seven days after the start of voting. The results of the election will be announced at the May meeting. The Chair-Elect shall serve one year in that capacity and in July of the following year shall assume the duties of the Chair.

(2025 Proposed)

Declared candidates for the Chair-Elect position will be introduced at the March meeting of the Senate. Chair-Elect nominations from the floor may also be made at the March meeting. At the April meeting of the Senate, the Chair-Elect candidates will be given an opportunity to present a brief statement (two minutes or less) to the Senate. Immediately following the April meeting, the Faculty Senate Office will transmit ballots to all members of the Senate. Ballots, to be counted, must be submitted to the Faculty Senate Office by the deadline stated on the ballot, which will be at least seven calendar days after the start of voting. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared the winner. Should no candidate receive a majority of the votes, a second ballot of the top two candidates will be conducted to determine the winner. The results of the election will be announced at the May meeting. The Chair-Elect shall serve one year in that capacity and in July of the following year shall assume the duties of the Chair.

E. Vacancies [Unchanged]

F. Release Time and Stipends

[Updated from “Administrative Support”]

2018 (Current)

The education and research responsibilities of the Faculty Chair shall be reduced to one-fourth the normal amount to permit him/her to adequately perform the assigned duties. The education and research responsibilities of the Faculty Chair-Elect shall be reduced to three-fourths the normal amount to permit him/her to adequately perform the assigned duties.

2025 (Proposed)

The positions of Chair and Chair-Elect assume University-recognized duties in the areas of service and administrative oversight. To facilitate the ability for these officers to adequately meet these responsibilities, the colleges and units of the serving individuals are expected to provide a reduction in teaching and research responsibilities by 75% for the Chair and 25% for the Chair-Elect. Nominees for the position of chair-elect shall notify their administration and negotiate the indicated release time. Service as Chair-Elect and Chair shall be acknowledged as service in the evaluation, promotion and tenure process.

In addition to the college-supported release time, the Chair-Elect and Chair shall each receive a set stipend funded by the Office of the Provost and coordinated by the Executive Director of Academic Personnel.

Article VI – Faculty Senate Secretary

[Updated from “Faculty Secretary”]

A. Office

[2025 proposal adds term limit of four consecutive term; specifies that the position is a voting member of Senate; allows Secretary to delegate duties to the Faculty Senate Office]

B. Release Time and Office Space

[Updated from “Administrative Support”]

2018 (Current)

The education and research responsibilities of the Faculty Secretary shall be reduced sufficiently to permit the Faculty Secretary to perform his/her duties adequately not to exceed the equivalent of one-course release per semester. The Faculty Secretary shall be provided with an office and adequate staff for the performance of these duties.

2025 (Proposed)

The position of Faculty Senate Secretary assumes University-recognized duties in the areas of service and administrative oversight. To facilitate the ability for the Secretary to adequately meet these responsibilities, the college and unit of the serving individual are expected to provide the equivalent of a three-credit course release per semester. Service as Secretary shall be acknowledged as service in the evaluation, promotion and tenure process.

The Secretary shall be provided with an office and adequate staff for the performance of these duties.

Article VII – Faculty Representative to State Government

[Updated from “Faculty Senate Representative to State Government”]

A. Office

[2025 proposal expands term length from one to two years; adds term limit of four consecutive terms]

B. Duties [Unchanged]**C. Release Time and Travel Funds**

[Updated from “Administrative Support”]

2018 (Current)

The education and research responsibilities of the Faculty Senate Representative to State Government shall be reduced to three-fourths the normal amount to permit her/him to adequately

perform the assigned duties. The University shall provide the Faculty Senate Representative to State Government with adequate travel funds for the performance of these duties.

2025 (Proposed)

The position of Faculty Representative to State Government assumes University-recognized duties in the areas of service and administrative oversight. To facilitate the ability for the Representative to adequately meet these responsibilities, the college and unit of the serving individual are expected to provide a reduction of teaching and research responsibilities by 25%. Service as Faculty Representative to State Government shall be acknowledged as service in the evaluation, promotion and tenure process.

The University shall provide the Faculty Representative to the State Government with adequate travel funds for the performance of these duties.

Article VIII – Representation on the West Virginia University Governing Board

A. Composition

2018 (Current)

In recognition that governance of higher education institutions is a responsibility shared by faculty, administrators, and trustees, West Virginia code states that the governing board of the University shall include two faculty representatives. Each representative represents the entire faculty of the whole University.

2025 (Proposed)

In recognition that governance of higher education institutions is a responsibility shared by faculty, Staff, students, administrators, and trustees, West Virginia code §18B-2A-1 states that the governing board of the University shall include two faculty representatives. Each representative acts on behalf of the University's entire faculty.

B. Election [Unchanged]

C. Terms

[2025 proposal adds term limit of four consecutive terms]

D. Vacancies

[First paragraph modified]

2018 (Current)

- a. If the Faculty Senate Chair elected to a term that begins in an odd-numbered year is unable or unwilling to complete the full two-year term as governing board representative for any reason, then succession to fill the remainder of the two-year term on the governing board position shall pass in the same manner as the Faculty Senate Chair position, as discussed in Article IV, Section 5.

2025 (Proposed)

1. Per the WVU Board of Governors Bylaws Article I, Section 1.10, if the Faculty Senate Chair is unable to complete their service on the BOG during the first year of their BOG term, the Faculty Senate Chair-Elect will assume the faculty BOG seat.
If the Immediate Past Faculty Senate Chair is unable to complete their service to the BOG during the second year of their BOG term, the Faculty Senate Chair will assume the faculty BOG seat.

Article IX – Removal of Members of the Senate

2018 (Current)

Any member of the Faculty Senate, including Chair, Chair-Elect, Faculty Secretary, and Faculty Senate Representative to State Government; any committee chair; or any university governing board member elected by the Faculty Senate can be removed by a vote for removal by at least 60% of the entire Faculty Senate membership.

A vote for removal from the Senate can only be made if a motion to remove has been presented to Faculty Senate at least seven calendar days prior to the vote on the removal motion. The

removal motion must either be included in the Faculty Senate meeting agenda or introduced by a member of the Senate through formal notification of the whole Senate through the Faculty Senate Office. If a motion to remove the Chair has been presented, the Chair-Elect will preside over that part of the meeting(s), rather than the Chair.

2025 (Proposed)

Any member of the Faculty Senate, including Chair, Chair-Elect, Faculty Senate Secretary, Faculty Senate Representative to State Government, any committee chair, or any University governing board member elected by the Faculty Senate can be removed by a vote for removal by at least 2/3 of the entire Faculty Senate membership.

A vote for removal from the Senate can only be made if a motion to remove has been presented to Faculty Senate at least seven calendar days prior to the vote on the removal motion. The removal motion must be included in the next Faculty Senate meeting agenda. If a motion to remove the Chair has been presented, the Chair-Elect will preside over that part of the meeting, rather than the Chair.

Article X – Amending Procedure

2018 (Current)

1. Proposing Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution shall first be approved by the Senate and then submitted to the University Assembly. Any member of the University Assembly may submit a suggested amendment in writing to the Senate by filing it with the Faculty Senate Office. The Senate shall act either to approve or reject the proposed amendment no later than the third meeting following such filings. Approval of any amendment shall require a 2/3 vote of the members of the Senate present and voting in order to submit the amendment to the University Assembly.

2. Publicizing Proposed Amendments

Any amendment approved by the Senate shall be distributed to every member of the University Assembly at least two weeks before a meeting of the University Assembly by campus mail or by email. The amendment also shall be made available on the faculty senate web site.

3. Discussion of Amendments

Opportunity for debate at a regular or special meeting of the University Assembly shall be provided for every amendment approved by the Senate.

4. Ratification of Amendments

Within one week following the meeting of the University Assembly, ballots shall be prepared by the Faculty Senate Office and distributed by postal mail or electronically to all members of the University Assembly. Voters shall submit their ballots to the Faculty Senate Office within one week of the original date of distribution. Ratification of a proposed amendment shall require a 2/3 majority of those responding to the vote.

5. Effective Date of Amendments:

New amendments shall be effective immediately upon ratification.

2025 (Proposed)

A. Consideration of Proposed Amendments by Faculty Senate

Amendments to this Constitution shall first be approved by the Senate and then submitted to the University Faculty Assembly. Any member of the Faculty Senate may introduce an amendment by submitting it in writing to the Faculty Senate Office at least seven calendar days in advance of the next scheduled Faculty Senate meeting. The proposed amendment shall be placed on the agenda for discussion at two Faculty Senate meetings prior to a vote by the Senate. The Senate shall act on the proposed amendment no later than the third meeting following such a filing. Approval of any amendment shall require a 2/3 vote of the members of the Senate present.

B. Ratification of Amendments by the University Faculty Assembly

Within seven calendar days following approval by the Faculty Senate, an electronic ballot shall be prepared by the Faculty Senate Office and distributed by email to all members of the University Faculty Assembly. Assembly members shall submit their electronic votes to be accumulated by the Faculty Senate Office within seven calendar days of the original date of distribution. Ratification of proposed amendments shall require a simple majority (50%+1) of the membership of the University Faculty Assembly.

C. Effective Date of Amendments

New amendments shall be effective immediately upon ratification.