

**UNLV** | FACULTY SENATE  
**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**  
**Faculty Senate Constitution**  
**Revised July 2017**

## **Section 1. Authority**

The authority, purpose, and objectives of the Faculty Senate are established within the traditional concept of faculty organization in American Universities, and shall be as defined in Section 1.4.7 of the Nevada System of Higher Education Code and Chapter I, Section 4, of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Bylaws. The Faculty Senate is authorized to act on questions and issues properly brought before it by the faculty of the several colleges, schools, and components of the university. The Faculty Senate is authorized to take appropriate actions not in conflict with these bylaws; the Bylaws of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; the Nevada System of Higher Education Code; and the laws and the statutes of the State of Nevada and the United States.

## **Section 2. Membership**

2.1 All academic faculty and administrative faculty who hold at least a fifty percent professional contract with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, as defined in Title 4, Chapter 3 of the Board of Regents Handbook, are eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate and its standing committees.

2.2 Executive faculty as defined in the Board of Regents Handbook Title 2, Section 1.6.1; Title 4, Section 2, 1.C.1; and Title 5, Section 4.1.4, shall not be eligible to hold voting membership in the Faculty Senate, nor voting membership on its standing committees. These faculty members include the President, the Executive Vice President and Provost, Vice Provosts, Associate Provosts, Assistant Provosts, Vice Presidents, Associate Vice Presidents, Assistant Vice Presidents, Deans, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, Directors -- where equivalent to Academic Deans, and Department Chairs.

The Executive Vice President and Provost, the Chair of the Classified Staff Council, the President of the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, and the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Faculty Senate.

2.3 The Chair of the Administrative Faculty Committee, when not already an elected Senator, shall be a voting member of the Faculty Senate, except that they may not vote on matters of curriculum.

The Chair of the University Bylaws Committee and the Chair of the Campus and Fiscal Affairs Committee, when not already elected Senators, shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Faculty Senator.

2.4 The Faculty Senate shall, in its Bylaws, through committees and/or the election or appointment of no more than three non-voting members of the Senate provide for representation by Faculty in Residence and professional employees who fall outside of representation provided in Sections 2.1 to 2.3 above, such as Part Time instructors, Letter of Appointment, and Medical Residents.

### **Section 3. Faculty Senate Components**

3.1 For the purpose of conducting elections of senators, the faculty of UNLV is divided into the following units:

- 3.1.1 Business School, Lee
- 3.1.2 Education, College of
- 3.1.3 Engineering, Howard R. Hughes College of
- 3.1.4 Fine Arts, College of
- 3.1.5 Health Sciences, Division of
- 3.1.6 Hotel Administration, William F. Harrah College of
- 3.1.7 Law, William S. Boyd School of
- 3.1.8 Liberal Arts, College of
- 3.1.9 Libraries, University
- 3.1.10 Administrative Faculty Unit
- 3.1.11 Sciences, College of
- 3.1.12 Urban Affairs, Greenspun College of

- a) Academic faculty members of the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History or the Division of Student Life shall be considered to be a member of the unit (3.1 to 3.13) that is most closely associated with their duties.

### **Section 4. Faculty Senate Representation**

4.1 Any campus unit which is governed by a Dean and has more than four academic faculty reporting to that Dean shall be entitled to representation on the Senate, and shall have one representative for each thirty faculty or fraction thereof, up to a maximum of six, to be elected by the members of the unit from among its eligible members. The Administrative Faculty unit shall have one representative from each of the following areas: (1) Administration and Advancement; (2) Athletics and the Thomas and Mack Center; (3) Research and Graduate College; (4) Finance and Business; and (5) two representatives from Student Affairs; as well as (6) two representatives from the Provost area for a total of eight representatives to be elected by the members of each unit from among its eligible members. (4/17)

4.2 Each fall the Faculty Senate Chair will conduct an annual census of the faculty to determine the correct number of representatives allowed to serve on the Faculty Senate. The Chair will notify each college or unit of any elections that need to be held as a result of the census.

4.3 Executive and administrative faculty are represented on the Faculty Senate through their respective units. These faculty members are eligible to vote in the election of the Faculty Senate nominee(s) from their unit.

4.4 Three Faculty Senate seats shall be designated "At-Large." Each At-Large seat is to be filled by an eligible member of the faculty who is successful in an election conducted by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in which all persons on professional contract are eligible to vote.

4.5 Each unit shall have one senator designated as the "Senior Senator." The senior senator is defined as the person with the least time remaining in a current three-year term. If there is more

than one such person in a particular unit, the senators in question will draw lots to determine seniority. The role of senior senator is described in Appendix 2 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

## **Section 5. Term of Office**

5.1 The term of office for each senator shall be for three years unless the majority of the unit's faculty vote to elect a senator to a reduced term to replace a resigning senator or to stagger the terms of the unit's senators.

## **Section 6. Elections**

6.1 All senators shall be elected by secret ballot unless an alternative process is defined in college or unit bylaws. Elections shall be conducted by a person or persons acceptable to a majority of the electing unit's eligible voters (preferably the unit's senior senator).

6.2 Absent extraordinary circumstances, faculty shall have no less than five working days to nominate following the call for nominations, and no less than five working days to vote after nominations have closed and been announced.

6.3 Each electing unit shall determine the number of consecutive terms for which its members are eligible, except that there shall be a limit of two consecutive full terms to which an "At-Large" member may be elected.

6.3.1 At-Large elections of senators shall be regulated and conducted by the Executive Committee.

6.3.2 These senators shall be elected to staggered terms so at least one At-Large seat is up for election each year.

## **Section 7. Officers of the Faculty Senate**

7.1 Members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall be the Chair of the Faculty Senate, Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, two members of the Faculty Senate elected At-Large from the Faculty Senate membership, and one member from the administrative faculty. All nominees must be current members of the Faculty Senate and members of the Faculty Senate during the time of their service on the Executive Committee, except for the Chair and the Vice Chair who can be elected just as their terms are ending. The Past Chair of the Faculty Senate will serve as an ex-officio member to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and to the Faculty Senate.

7.2 The person elected Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate shall serve one year as Chair and one year as Past Chair.

7.3 The person elected Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate shall relinquish his or her seat on the Faculty Senate. A special election to fill the vacant Faculty Senate seat shall be conducted in accordance with the bylaws of the unit from which the Vice Chair is elected.

7.4 The Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate will have voting privileges as a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and shall not have Faculty Senate voting privileges. The

Chair of the Faculty Senate shall vote only to break a tie. The Past Chair of the Faculty Senate will have no voting privileges.

7.5 Persons eligible for the offices of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the Faculty Senate, shall be those faculty members defined as academic faculty in Title 4, Chapter 3 of the Board of Regents Handbook. Persons eligible for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate also must previously have been granted tenure in their respective academic colleges.

## **Section 8. Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate**

8.1 Unless changed in a manner consistent with the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate, the following standing committees shall be maintained: Academic Freedom and Ethics Committee; Academic Standards Committee; Administrative Faculty Committee; Admissions Committee; Campus and Fiscal Affairs Committee; Curriculum Committee; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee; General Education Committee; Grievance Committee; Instructional Infrastructure Committee; Priority and New Program Committee; Program Review Committee; Research Infrastructure Committee; Sabbatical and Faculty Development Leave Committee; Special Hearing Committee; Tenure and Promotion Committee; and University Bylaws Committee.

8.2 Representation on committees shall be determined by the Faculty Senate.

## **Section 9. Amendment to the Constitution**

9.1 An amendment to the Faculty Senate Constitution may be proposed by twenty percent of the faculty, or by a majority vote of the Faculty Senate.

9.1.1 Either of the above recommendations for an amendment to the Faculty Senate Constitution shall be submitted to a vote by the faculty. Faculty acceptance of the proposed amendment requires the approval of two-thirds of those voting.