

FGCU Faculty Senate By-Laws
Proposed Revisions
Remaining proposals from the March 14, 2008 meeting

Attached are the remaining proposals to consider for By-Laws changes. We will need to vote on proposed change VII, then also to consider proposal VIII. As per our procedure from the last meeting, we will continue with the remaining proposals, and then consider a motion to “Take from Table” Proposal II., which the Ad-Hoc Team has worked hard to revise based on your comments. Their revised proposal is included as the last section of this document.

The Leadership Team endorses the following seven changes:

- I. Senate Membership - **passed**
- II. Mission and Vision – **Tabled for revision**
- III. Leadership Replacement - **passed**
- IV. Faculty Eligibility - **failed**
- V. Standing Team Facilitator Duties - **passed**
- VI. Discussion Time Limits - **passed**
- VII. Faculty Affairs Team

In addition, we are putting one proposal forward that we could not reach consensus on, but felt it was appropriate for the Senate as a whole to vote on it.

- VIII. Leadership Transition

Finally, we agreed to not endorse the following proposed amendments that came forward from the committee:

- Extending Term of Senate Membership
- Senate Officers automatically as Senate Members
- Standing Team Facilitator Term Limit

Parliamentary procedure allows us to put the remaining proposed changes forward from the Leadership Team. We are recommending that these proposals be considered as changes to be voted for or against, requiring 60 % of the membership to vote affirmatively, for a change to the By-Laws to be accepted. We are not recommending that anyone consider motions to amend these proposals at this time. After this much debate, our feeling is that the Senate should vote them up or down as they are.

If any Senator wishes to vote on one of the three proposed amendments that are not put forward by the Leadership Team, that will require a motion and second from the floor.

VII. Faculty Affairs Team - Section 4.02(b)

Background:

Each standing team was asked to review their current structure and duties and to suggest any changes they felt were needed. The Faculty Affairs team proposes the following:

Current By-Laws: 4.02 Composition, Responsibilities and Duties of Faculty Standing Teams

(b) Faculty Affairs Team

(i) Composition

The Faculty Affairs Team consists of two (2) faculty members representing each academic unit. Members must have at least four years full-time experience in higher education to be eligible for service on the Faculty Affairs Team.

(ii) Responsibilities and Duties

The Faculty Affairs Team functions to advise the Office of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and to provide a direct faculty voice and source of informal appeal regarding personnel-related matters pertaining to faculty. The team reviews and recommends policies concerning all matters relating to: faculty status of positions not clearly defined by the Collective Bargaining Agreement or BOR; annual review, promotion, and reappointment issues within and across academic units; transition from multi-year to tenure-track appointments and vice-versa; merit criteria; the availability and allocation of summer support opportunities; sabbaticals and leaves of absence, professional development and resource support, and office assignment; the ownership and use of intellectual property such as taped lectures and material, electronic/digital resources; academic freedom and integrity issues.”

Proposed changes:

“(b) Faculty Affairs Team

(i) Composition

The Faculty Affairs Team consists of two (2) faculty members representing each academic unit, with the exception of Library Services, which may choose to have only one. At least one member from each unit must be at the rank of Associate Professor or higher. Members must have at least four years full-time experience in higher education to be eligible for service on the Faculty Affairs Team.

(ii) Responsibilities and Duties

The Faculty Affairs Team is a standing committee of the collegial faculty governance system, reporting to the Faculty Senate. It provides a direct faculty voice regarding all personnel-related matters pertaining to faculty, as well as the traditional professional expectations and responsibilities of faculty. The team, at the direction of the Senate leadership, reviews and recommends policies concerning matters relating to:

- general faculty status of university employees, in situations where faculty or non-faculty status is not delineated by the Collective Bargaining Agreement;
- annual review, promotion, and reappointment issues across academic units;
- assessment of faculty teaching, research, and service;
- merit criteria;
- the availability and allocation of summer support opportunities;
- sabbaticals and leaves of absence;
- professional development and resource support;
- the ownership and use of intellectual property;
- academic freedom and integrity issues;
- criteria for honorary faculty status, including Emeritus status; and
- other issues of traditional academic concern related to faculty expectations and responsibilities.

The Faculty Affairs Team does not negotiate or otherwise determine terms and conditions of employment. Any recommendations related to terms and conditions of employment will be forwarded to the UFF chapter leadership for consideration.”

This change is being forwarded to the Senate without a consensus endorsement from the Leadership Team

VIII. Leadership Transition Section 3.03

Background

In an effort to both establish term limits for Faculty Senate President, and to insure productive transition in leadership; the intent of this amendment is to create a direct transition for the Vice President one year to President the following year, effectively we would elect a President-elect each year. This creates a two-year commitment for the officer. It also precludes a President from serving in that office for more than one year.

Current By-Laws:

“(a) Each Spring the Senate elects a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Parliamentarian for one-year terms which begin the following Fall semester. The President-elect shares duties with the outgoing President over the summer to facilitate the transition process”

Proposed changes:

“(a) Each Spring the Senate elects a Vice President, A Secretary, and a Parliamentarian for one-year terms which begin the following Fall semester. **The current Vice President assumes the office of President for the next year.** The **new President** shares duties with the outgoing President over the summer to facilitate the transition process”

Changes that are not be being put forward at this time:

Extending Term of Senate Membership

“(d) The term of membership for Senators and team members is **three** years; Senators may be re-elected by their units. In the case of contract expiration and non-renewal, the academic unit replaces its Senate and team members as discussed in section 3.02(h).”

Senate Officers automatically as Senate Members

“(b) **Newly elected Senate officers (see Section 3.03 (a)) are automatically Senate members for the next academic year and are not included in the above representation formula (3.02 (a)).**”

Standing Team Facilitator Term Limit

“(h) Each standing team elects a facilitator to lead the work of the team by calling team meetings, developing agendas, and assisting the team’s work in other appropriate areas. The facilitator serves as a member of the Leadership Team. No faculty member may concurrently serve as the facilitator of more than one standing team. **No faculty member can serve more than three consecutive academic years as a team facilitator for a given standing team.**”

II. Mission and Vision – currently Tabled

Current By-Laws:

Philosophy Statement

Whereas a university's foundation is its faculty, the faculty governance process and structure at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) are grounded in and dedicated to the principles, concepts, and objectives of the university mission. A system of collegial faculty self-governance is necessary to ensure that the rights of faculty are supported and that the responsibilities of faculty in fulfilling the mission of the university are met. Therefore, the Faculty Senate engages in collegial dialog with the President of the Institution, the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) and others in positions of administrative leadership. Faculty governance at FGCU fosters effective and open communication, instills academic integrity, ensures academic quality, and emphasizes the rights and shared responsibilities of constituents including students, staff, community, faculty, and administration. Fairness, mutual respect, continuous improvement, an informed faculty, and collegial decision-making are the hallmarks of the governance structure.

Purpose

Faculty governance at Florida Gulf Coast University provides a structure and process for the faculty to promote a supportive and quality-oriented learning environment for students, staff, community, faculty, and administration, in furtherance of the mission and guiding principles of the university. The faculty governance structure facilitates faculty input to the complementary administrative units of the FGCU organizational structure. The Faculty Senate is an autonomous body representing the collective opinion of the faculty of the university to the administration and to the community. The faculty governance system at FGCU:

- *defines and promotes the rights and responsibilities of faculty with respect to scholarly activity, mutual respect and tolerance, collegiality, and equity across the academic units of the institution;*
- *provides a process for recommending university policies concerning student, staff, community, faculty, campus, and administrative affairs;*
- *vigorously protects and promotes academic freedom;*
- *coordinates faculty representation on university-wide committees and task forces;*
- *creates and maintains a flexible, collegial, and integrated structure;*
- *promotes the equitable economic welfare of the faculty; and*
- *provides a process for ensuring quality in academic programs.*

The faculty recognizes that as the University develops, the governance structure will evolve, striving for continuous improvement, to reflect and sustain a dynamic learning environment. The governance document should be reviewed annually and updated as needed.

Proposed changes: See attachment for revisions.