

**FGCU Faculty Senate By-Laws**  
**Proposed Revisions for Senate Membership & Representation**

The following are recommendations to revise our current faculty Senate Bylaws. The Ad Hoc committee reviewed the current By-Laws and made suggested changes for each issue where appropriate. The following amendments apply for By-law changes:

**Section 5.02 Approval of Amendments**

- (a) Amendments to the Faculty Governance Document may not be voted on in the same Senate meeting in which they are introduced.
- (b) Proposed amendments require approval by 60% of the full membership of the Senate in order to pass.
- (c) Unless otherwise stated in the proposal, amendments will take effect at the beginning of the Fall or Spring semester subsequent to approval.

By-Laws Revision Ad-Hoc Team  
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## I. Senate Membership Section 3.02

### Background:

Concerns were raised in 2006 that our current formula for determining Senate representation (20% of faculty) would result in a Faculty Senate that was too large to be effective. An ad-hoc team to investigate the issue was formed on September 29, 2006. They reported their review of other SUS Faculty Senate formulas on October 13, 2006. The discussion at that meeting guided the committee toward developing alternative formulas for review. These proposals were presented at the February 2, 2007 Senate Meeting, and again in the Fall. This year, the ad-hoc team was asked to address the issue of transition into any new representation formula. A fourth option was proposed by a Senator not on the ad-hoc team; it is included.

### Current By-Laws: **Section 3.02 Membership**

*“(a) Membership in the Faculty Senate is allocated proportionately to the academic units each Spring, with representatives numbering 20% of the total full-time faculty in the unit as of April 1, rounded to the next highest whole number. New faculty positions beginning the next Fall are counted, if a letter of offer has been accepted by April 1. If, after April 1 and before the beginning of next academic year, a unit has a change of faculty which would alter representation, whether through hiring, resignations, transfers, or retirements, the unit will make a motion at the first Fall Faculty Senate meeting to hold an additional election to adjust representation.”*

*“(c) If the Spring reapportionment causes a unit to increase its membership in the Senate, an election will be held that Spring for the new seat as part of the regular election process; if the Spring reapportionment causes a unit to decrease its membership in the Senate, the appropriate number of expiring Senate seats will not be filled in that election cycle.”*

### Four Proposed Alternative Changes: **(in bold)**

1. **PERCENTAGE CHANGE:** Change the above text in (a) to read “... with representatives numbering **15%** of the total full-time faculty...”

*Rationale: This is the simplest change, but it will only be temporary. Alternatively the change could be to 10%*

2. **NONPROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION:** Change the entire section to read:

**“(a) Membership of the Faculty Senate is allocated as eight senators per academic unit.”**

This change would necessitate the deletion of 3.02 (c)

*Rationale: This is a one-time fix giving us a senate of 48 senators. The only change will come when we expand academic units, which will require changes to the Senate By-Laws, and the membership can be adjusted at that time. Disadvantages include the lower representation of larger units, and the undue service burden placed on smaller units.*

**3. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION WITH FIXED TOTAL** Change the entire section to read:

**“(a) Membership of the Faculty Senate is allocated as follows:**

**(i) On April 1, the total number of full-time faculty employed at the university, and the number of eligible faculty in each academic unit will be determined by the Senate Leadership Team. New faculty positions beginning the next Fall are counted, if a letter of offer has been accepted by April 1.**

**(ii) The number of Senators per unit is determined by the formula:**

$$\frac{\text{Number of full-time faculty in the unit}}{\text{Number of full-time faculty at the University}} \times 50$$

**(iii) The result of the formula is rounded up to the next whole number.”**

This change would necessitate the deletion of 3.02 (c)

*Rationale: This is a permanent solution that gives us approximately 50 Senators each year with proportional representation across units. The total number could be changed (40, 60, etc). The rounding formula could be changed. The determination of representation must be early enough to allow elections before summer session. The disadvantage is a one year lag to correct proportional differences resulting from new hires after April 1. This proposal eliminates the option of correcting membership allocation in the Fall. It would be inappropriate to recalculate in the Fall as this might result in some units losing Senators that had been elected for that year.*

**4. MIXED PROPORTIONAL AND NON-PROPORTIONAL.** Change the entire section to read:

**“(a) Membership of the Faculty Senate is allocated as follows:**

**(i) Each Academic Unit is allocated a minimum of four Senators**

**(ii) Additional membership will be allocated as follows:**

- i. **On April 1, the total number of full-time faculty employed at the university, and the number of eligible faculty in each academic unit will be determined by the Senate Leadership Team. New faculty positions beginning the next Fall are counted, if a letter of offer has been accepted by April 1.**
- ii. **The number of additional Senators per unit is determined by the formula:**

$$\frac{\text{Number of full-time faculty in the unit}}{\text{Number of full-time faculty at the University}} \times 24$$

- iii. **The result of the formula is rounded up to the next whole number.”**

This change would necessitate the deletion of 3.02 (c)

*Rationale: Provides a combination of options 2 and 3 above. It gives us approximately 50 Senators, with half (24) allocated non-proportionately, and probably slightly more than half (due to rounding up) allocated proportionately.*

Additional Representation Issues:

- A. A motion for any of the above changes should include **“These changes are to go into effect April 1 of 2008.”** Otherwise the By-Laws dictate that they would go in effect Fall semester, and then would not be applied until Spring. Also the motion should include, **“The procedure for adjusting Senate Membership is left for each individual unit to determine.”** This leaves the transition to each unit, rather than a Senate dictated procedure.
- B. The committee also felt, regardless of the Senate membership allocation change, the Faculty Senate should consider the following additional change of Section 3.02 (d) to increase the term for a Senator from two to three years.

**“(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).”**

*Rationale: As we move to a smaller number of senators, this would insure some continuity and institutional memory.*