

**Draft Constitution
Presented to Faculty Senate on April 8, 2024**

SECTION 1: CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE FACULTY SENATE AND SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 1: Name and Purposes

The name of this organization is the Faculty of Western Washington University.

The purpose of this organization is to provide the Faculty of Western Washington University with a governance system empowered to speak and act for the Faculty in University affairs not covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Western Washington University and the United Faculty of Western Washington.

Article 2: Membership

Voting members of the Faculty are those holding appointments at .5 FTE (annual average) or greater at Western Washington University.

Article 3: Faculty Senate

3.1 The Faculty Senate is empowered to speak and act for the Faculty in University affairs that are not covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Western Washington University and the United Faculty of Western Washington. The Faculty Senate has responsibility in the areas of curriculum, academic programs, scholarly activities, the education of students, the mission of the University, and institutional and administrative effectiveness. The Faculty Senate and its committees advance the University's objectives, as set forth in the Western Washington University Catalog and the Strategic Plan of the University. The Faculty Senate works collaboratively with other campus units on matters of university budgeting, planning, and policy.

3.2 The Faculty Senate membership is as follows:

Voting Members: No more than 30 voting members elected by college-wide votes of the voting faculty in each college.¹ The faculty governance bodies in each college shall submit a list of elected members of the Faculty Senate under Section 12.1 of the Senate bylaws.

The Faculty Senate membership also includes the following ex-officio non-voting members:

- President of the University
- Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- One college dean appointed by the Provost
- President of the United Faculty of Western Washington
- Associated Students (AS) Senate President or other AS designee

Note that chairs of the Faculty Senate standing committees are not members of the Senate unless otherwise selected by their colleges but may be asked to attend Senate meetings to share pertinent updates with the Senate.

3.3 Terms of Office: Elections are held annually in Spring Quarter. Voting members of the Senate serve for two years. Senators may not be elected for more than three consecutive terms.²

3.4 Meetings: Unless there is insufficient business, the Faculty Senate meets every two weeks (five times per quarter) throughout the academic year. Typically, the first meeting of the quarter occurs during the first full week of classes.

3.5 Committees: The Faculty Senate may create subordinate bodies by majority vote, define their duties, designate their composition, and appoint their members. At its first meeting of the academic year, the Faculty Senate approves the roster of each standing committee. Vacancies on standing committees that may arise throughout the year are filled by approval of the college faculty governance committees and the Senate Executive Council.

3.6 Appeals: When the President of the University refuses to accept or implement any act of the Faculty Senate authorized by this constitution, the University President shall do so in a written statement transmitted to the Faculty Senate setting out the refusal and the reasons.

The Faculty Senate may vote to appeal this matter to the Board of Trustees directly or submit the matter to the Faculty of the University for referendum vote, or it may do both. A majority vote of the total voting membership of the Faculty Senate, or in the case of a referendum vote, a majority of those voting, is sufficient to bring an appeal to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting.

A motion to appeal to the Board of Trustees will take precedence over all other business and all other motions at a Faculty Senate meeting. When the Faculty Senate, by two-thirds vote, rejects any action, decision, or policy of the President of the University, this rejection will be presented for resolution to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting. The President of the Faculty Senate shall represent the Faculty in this proceeding.

Article 4: Officers of the Faculty Senate

4.1 Officers: The officers are President, President-elect, Secretary, and Appointments and Elections Officer.

4.2 Primary Duties and Terms of Office for Faculty Senate Officers:

(a) Faculty Senate President - The president presides over the Faculty Senate, schedules the meetings of and chairs the Executive Council, meets periodically with the University President and Provost, and attends all meetings of and represents the Faculty Senate before the Board of Trustees. The president serves a one-year term, immediately following service as Vice President and President-Elect.

(b) Faculty Senate Vice President and President-Elect – The Vice President and President-Elect serves on the Executive Council, presides over the full Senate and the Executive Council in the absence of the president, and with the Senate President meets periodically with the University President and Provost. The Vice President and President-Elect serves a one-year term, starting from the date of election to the office.

(c) Secretary - The Secretary presides over the Faculty Senate and Executive Council in the absence of the President and the Vice President. The Secretary serves a one-year term, starting from the date of election to the office.

(d) Appointments and Elections Officer - The Appointments and Elections Officer presides over the Faculty Senate and Executive Council in the absence of the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Senate and during the election of Senate officers in the Spring quarter. The Appointments and Elections Officer serves a one-year term, beginning from the date of election to the office.

4.3 Election: All officers are voting members of the Faculty Senate. They are nominated from the floor and elected by a majority ~~vote~~ of the Faculty Senate voting members during the Spring quarter. In the case of multiple nominees, the election shall be by confidential ballot.

4.4 Voting privileges of the officers: All officers are voting members of the Senate except in the instance where the President pro tem is no longer a member of the Senate. In this special instance, the President pro tem will serve as a non-voting member of the Senate.

Article 5: Faculty Senate Executive Council

5.1 Membership: The Executive Council consists of the following members:

(a) Voting Members: President, Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, Elections and Appointments Officer, and one member of the Faculty Senate elected by the Senate in the prior Spring Quarter.

(b) Non-Voting Members: The Chair of the Academic Coordinating Commission, the Budget Representative, the Deputy Budget Representative, the past President of the Faculty Senate, ~~and~~ the Faculty Legislative Representative, and the President of the UFWW.

5.2 Election: The Faculty Senate representative on the Senate Executive Council- is nominated from the floor and elected (by secret ballot if there are multiple candidates), by majority vote at the first regular meeting held after the spring quarter Faculty Senate elections. They serve for one year or until the installation of the new Executive Council.

5.3 Duties: The Executive Council discusses issues important to the Senate, may prepare motions for consideration by the Senate, delegates duties as necessary, and prepares the Senate agenda. The Executive Council reports to the Faculty Senate via the Senate president and performs such other duties as may be delegated to it by the Faculty Senate.

5.4 In situations in which a timely decision by the Faculty Senate is not possible, the Executive Council may act for the Faculty Senate. Such actions are subject to review by the Senate at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting called for this purpose.

5.5 All Executive Council actions will be entered in the minutes of the next Faculty Senate meeting under the heading "Executive Council Actions." Minutes of the Faculty Senate are posted on the Senate website and publicly available to all interested parties.

5.6 The Executive Council ensures the leadership roles for all standing and ad hoc committees, commissions, and councils are filled:

5.7 A quorum is required for Senate Executive Council actions and decisions require unanimous consent or majority vote. A quorum for Senate Executive Council is 80 percent of the voting members.

5.8 Senate Executive Council meets every other week during each academic term with the exception of summer. A special meeting of the Executive Council may be called by the President of the Faculty Senate or by two Executive Council members.

Article 6: Amendments

6.1 Proposed amendments to this Constitution may be initiated by the Faculty Senate (following the usual procedural rules for motions) or by petition of 30 voting-eligible members of the WWU faculty. Such proposals must be approved by two-thirds of the voting members of the Faculty Senators in attendance, assuming a quorum is met, before they are adopted.

6.2 Before action is taken, proposed amendments must be presented in writing at a meeting of the Faculty Senate, posted on the Faculty Senate website, and delivered to the faculty via email.

Article 7: Ratification

7.1 This Constitution is ratified by the Faculty when: (a) it is accepted by a majority vote of the Faculty voting in an election held for that purpose, and (b) approved by two-thirds of the voting members of the Faculty Senate in attendance at the Senate meeting where ratification is voted on, assuming a quorum is met.