

## **Austin Peay State University Faculty Senate Rules Committee Report**

**Interim report due 2/26/26**

**Final report due 3/26/2026**

### **Rules Committee, 2025-2026**

- Darren Michael, Chair, Faculty Senate Vice-President, President Elect, Secretary Pro-Tem
- Dr. Boubette Bouton, College of Education
- Christina Chester-Fangman, Library, Faculty Senate Parliamentarian
- Nancy Gibson, Library, Faculty Senate Board of Trustees Representative
- Samuel Ligo, College of STEM, CoSTEM Faculty Senate representative

### **Committee Charge**

The committee will review the Constitution and Bylaws for the Faculty Senate and, if necessary, recommend revisions for consideration by the Faculty Senate. Additionally, the committee has decided to compile a practical handbook of guidelines for each Executive Committee member since there is no comprehensive version of this presently.

### **Considerations**

- On a initial reading of the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws, there are a number of sections where the language is either vague or confusing, even contradictory, with regards to identifying voting positions versus appointments, succession and replacement of senators, and amending and adopting revisions to the documents.
- The committee charges itself to review both documents and seek input from the Senate regarding any particular confusing languages they find from the document. The full extent of this work may not be fully realized until the next academic year.
- The committee has observed there are no comprehensive document containing the expectations for the Executive Committee members. Each member of the Rules Committee has been asked to develop a document for each position in the Executive Comm.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The committee recommends the review and eventual adoption of a handbook outlining the expectations of each member of the Executive Committee with a new expanded role for the Member at Large (suggested by former Member at Large Dr. Bobette Bouton)
- 2) The committee recommends for the next Senate Year 2026 – 2027 to charge a committee to revise the Constitution and Bylaws based on their and the Faculty Senate's suggestions, particularly the following:
  - The Constitution, Article II needs clarification.
    - Article II, Section I regarding elected members
      - Succession wording does not outline circumstances regarding replacement senators or senators who resign. "Term of office" implies all senators shall serve three (3) years. There is no clarifying language for replacement senators.
    - Article II, Section III regarding Officers and elected positions
      - The section refers to all officers as elected positions. However, point 5 lists the Executive Committee under Officers. This implies they are all elected. However, the ex-officio positions are also listed here. Point 5 should be moved to a new section.
      - Point 6 regarding the Parliamentarian outlines it as an appointed position by the Executive Committee. This should not be listed in a section that starts with officers "elected by..."
  - The Bylaws need some clarification.
    - Article III, Section E – regarding the Provost's role in approval of senators attending meetings remotely. Also, this bylaw was created during COVID. Should the option for remote attendance still be available? How do we make it an exception under extraordinary circumstances only?
      - A Proposal –
        - Current Section E:
          - "Senators may attend meetings remotely if approved by the Provost and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee."
        - Proposed Section E revision:
          - "Senators may attend meetings remotely as observers if they are off campus, provided it is an occasional exception rather than a long-term arrangement. This accommodation must not burden the Senate with technical or procedural changes and should remain unobtrusive to in-person attendees. Remote participants are considered observers; they may not speak, vote, or ask questions, *though their attendance will be recorded*. A senator who will be attending remotely must notify the

Secretary *in a reasonable time* before the meeting in written form.”

- Article VII regarding Amendmants and Adoption to Bylaws clarification of language
- CURRENT “*Adoption and Amendments to Bylaws*”
  - *The bylaws may be amended by a simple majority of those senators in attendance at the next regular business meeting after the meeting at which such amendments are presented. The adoption of these bylaws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those senators present at a regular meeting after the meeting at which they are amended.*
- PROPOSED “Adoption and Amendment to Bylaws:
  - Proposed amendments to these bylaws must be presented at a regular Senate meeting and require a simple majority vote of the senators present and voting. Adoption of the bylaws, as amended, requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the senators present and voting at the next regular Senate meeting following the meeting at which they were amended.