

Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of Austin Peay State University

The University faculty for purposes of this document shall consist of all full-time university employees holding the rank of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor, and whose duties are in excess of fifty percent in the following areas: teaching, scholarly research, library service, or academic departmental administration.

- [Article I - Meeting Procedures](#)
- [Article II - Quorum](#)
- [Article III - Attendance](#)
- [Article IV - Election of Senate Officers](#)
- [Article V - Standing Committees for the Senate](#)
- [Article VI - Election of Faculty Member to the University Board of Trustees](#)
- [Article VII - Adoption and Amendments to Bylaws](#)

Article I Meeting Procedures

Section A. The Agenda Will be Limited To:

1. all items for discussion or vote that are submitted in writing or by email to a member of executive committee by senators at least four (4) days before the Faculty Senate's meeting.
2. those motions or items prepared by the Executive Committee.
3. approved amendments to the agenda.
4. reports from standing and *ad hoc* committees requiring action or request for advice.
5. an address by the President or the President's designee normally not to exceed 15 minutes.
6. an address by the Provost or the Provost's designee normally not to exceed 15 minutes.

Section B. Before Full Senate Meetings

1. The Senate President shall meet and confer weekly with the President and Provost of the University to convey relevant investigative studies of the Senate.
2. The Executive Committee shall prepare a tentative agenda for each full Senate meeting by:
 - a. Assembling items for action or advice and determining the order of their presentation to the Senate and the length of debate for each item.
 - b. Sending copies of the proposed agenda, together with all scheduled motions, to each faculty member at least two (2) working days before full Senate meeting
3. Standing and *ad hoc* committees shall, as their deliberations warrant, send written [or electronic](#) reports to the Executive Committee. If a committee is ready to recommend an action to the Senate, that request must take the form of a motion.

- 45 4. Senators who wish to debate or discuss any matter shall prepare a written item. Items must
46 be in an appropriate format such as paper or in an appropriate electronic format. These
47 items shall be sent to the Executive Committee for scheduling at least four (4) working days
48 before the Senate meeting. If a senator wishes the Senate to consider an item after the agenda
49 has been prepared, the senator may bring it in paper or an appropriate electronic format.
50 ~~writing~~ to a full Senate meeting and file it with the chair before the opening of business.
51 Then, when the chair moves for the acceptance of the agenda, the senator should propose
52 an amendment to the agenda to include the new agenda item.
53

54 **Section C. Full Senate Meetings**

- 55
- 56 1. The first item of business of every Senate meeting shall be the acceptance or modification of
57 the proposed agenda by simple majority vote. Also, at any point in the proceeding after the
58 acceptance of the agenda, any senator can, as a point of privilege, suggest amendment to the
59 agenda in order to lengthen or shorten debate, to include a motion, or to omit an item from
60 the agenda. Such a proposal, made after the acceptance of the agenda, must be seconded and
61 requires a simple majority vote.
 - 62 2. The suggested agenda format is:
 - 63 a. motion by the chair to accept the agenda.
 - 64 b. motion by the chair to accept minutes from the previous meeting.
 - 65 c. address by the President of the University or the President's designee.
 - 66 d. address by the Provost of the University or the Provost's designee.
 - 67 e. items of the agenda will be taken up in the order within the time limits established,
68 unless a motion for amendment of agenda passes.
 - 69 f. if there is time remaining at the conclusion of the agenda, the chair may, at its
70 discretion, present information, entertain unscheduled motions, or discuss items for
71 the agenda of forthcoming sessions, acknowledging that a motion to adjourn from
72 any senator is always in order.
 - 73 3. Rules for Conducting Orderly Meetings
74 The Faculty Senate shall conduct business under Robert's Rules of Order. Variation from
75 Robert's Rules of Orders will require a motion from the floor, duly seconded, carrying a 2/3
76 majority of the Senate present at the time of the motion. The motion for suspension must
77 specifically state that Robert's Rules of Order is to be suspended for the purposes of dealing
78 with the issue under discussion for a limited time specified in the motion of suspension. A
79 Parliamentarian will assist with the orderly conduct of meetings.
80

81 **Article II**

82 **Quorum**

83

84

85

86 **Section A.** Those senators present at a regular meeting shall constitute a quorum.

87 **Section B.** At any called meeting, a majority of senators shall constitute a quorum.

88 **Section C.** Only senators may vote on matters before the Senate. No voting by proxy will be
89 allowed.

90 **Article III**
91 **Attendance**

92
93 **Section A.** Regular meetings of the Faculty Senate are open. The Faculty Senate reserves the right to
94 go into executive session by a majority vote of members present or to be called into executive
95 session by the Senate Executive Committee.

96 **Section B.** Attendance of executive sessions by anyone other than current faculty senators shall
97 require a majority vote for approval.

98 **Section C.** The office of any senator who has missed four (4) meetings in an academic year shall be
99 declared vacant and an election shall be conducted to fill the office. Senators will be notified by the
100 Secretary of the Faculty Senate after they miss the third meeting, that if they miss a fourth meeting
101 their senate seat will become vacant. Faculty Senate will adhere to federal law (including the Family
102 Medical Leave Act) and university policies (including APSU Policy 5:034 Paid Parental Leave)
103 regarding attendance.

104 **Section D.** Senators elected to an interim term will serve the remainder of the vacant term,
105 beginning on the first day of the month following the interim election.

106
107 **Article IV**
108 **Procedures for the Election of Senate Officers**

109
110 **Section A.** The Nomination Committee will consist of the immediate past Senate President and two
111 outgoing senators selected by the immediate past Senate President. The Senate Executive
112 Committee will approve the Nominations before the regular April meeting. This *ad hoc* committee
113 shall nominate at the regular May meeting at least one person for each of the Senate offices, after
114 having secured an approval from all of those to be nominated. ~~Other nominations for senate~~
115 ~~officers shall be possible from the floor at the May meeting.~~

116 **Section B.** In addition to the offices identified in the Constitution, this ad hoc committee shall be
117 responsible for nominating ~~an~~ individuals to serve as Faculty Senate Representatives on the
118 University Curriculum Committee and the Provost's Council. The Faculty Senate Representatives on
119 the University Curriculum Committee and the Provost's Council shall be ~~a~~ current member~~s~~ of the
120 Faculty Senate.

121 **Section C.** Other nominations shall be possible from the floor at the regular May meeting.

122 Nominations for the office of President will only be accepted in the case that the current Vice
123 President is unwilling to serve as President in the upcoming year.

124 **Section D.** The office of any executive committee member who has missed eight (8) meetings in an
125 academic year shall be declared vacant and the remaining executive committee members will appoint
126 a current senator to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the vacated term.

127 **Section E.** Recognizing the substantial time requirement of the following officer positions, release
128 time for faculty senate officers will be as follows: 1. President: three hours fall semester and three
129 hours spring semester 2. Vice-President: three hours spring semester 3. Secretary: three hours
130 fall semester.

131
132 **Article V**
133 **Standing Committees for the Senate**

134
135 **Section A.** Executive Committee

136 The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate shall be composed of the President, Vice President,
137 the Secretary of the Faculty Senate, the Treasurer of the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate
138 Representative on the Provost's Council, the Faculty Senate Representative on the University
139 Curriculum Committee, and a Member-at-Large (elected from and by the Faculty Senate). The

140 faculty member serving on the APSU Board of Trustees shall be a member *ex officio*, with voice but
141 no vote on the Executive Committee. In addition, the Immediate Past-President of the Faculty
142 Senate, provided such person currently serves as a faculty member at Austin Peay State University,
143 will be a member *ex officio*, with voice but no vote on the Executive Committee. The Faculty Senate
144 President will be a tenured faculty member. The Faculty Senate Vice President shall serve a one-
145 year term and become the next Faculty Senate President. In the event that the Vice President
146 chooses not to succeed the President, an election for both President and Vice President will follow
147 Article IV Procedures for the Election of Senate Officers.

149 The responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

- 151 1. To propose the agenda for Faculty Senate meetings,
- 152 2. To conduct the elections to the Faculty Senate
 - 153 • General officers to be elected are identified in Article II, Section III of the
 - 154 Constitution.
 - 155 • Additional officers may be added or removed on an as-needed basis by amending
 - 156 these Bylaws as stipulated in Article VII Adoption and Amendments to Bylaws
- 157 3. To recommend to the Faculty Senate for its advice and consent, individuals to serve on the
158 various committees of the Faculty Senate. Committee and subcommittee chairs should be
159 recommended after obtaining their agreement to serve. These recommendations should be
160 accomplished at the first regular meeting of the Senate after the election of the new
161 Executive Board, which will be the June Senate meeting unless the Senate votes not to hold
162 regular meetings during summer terms of the academic year,
- 163 4. To advise the President of the Faculty Senate,
- 164 5. To act on behalf of the Faculty Senate ad interim and to report such actions to the next
165 meeting of the Faculty Senate for its approval, and
- 166 6. To monitor the progress of standing and *ad hoc* committees.
- 167 7. In the event that a member of the Executive Committee must relinquish the position mid-
168 term, the remaining members of the Executive Committee will appoint a current senator to
169 fill the position for the remainder of the term.

171 **Section B. Rules Committee**

172 The Rules committee shall be chaired by the Vice President of the Faculty Senate. In addition, two
173 senators and two former senators shall serve on the committee. The responsibilities of the
174 committee are as follows:

- 176 1. To study and recommend changes in the Constitution of the Faculty Senate and the Bylaws
177 of the Faculty Senate,
- 178 2. To recommend to the Faculty Senate changes in its standing committee structure and
179 function and,
- 180 3. To study the representation in the Faculty Senate according to the specifications in the
181 Constitution and notify the Executive committee by February 15 of each year the number of
182 senators to be elected in each area.

184 **Section C. Academic Committees**

185 The Committees of the Senate dealing with Academic issues shall be designated as *Academic Red* and
186 *Academic White*.

188 Each Academic committee shall consist of no more than seven (7) ~~five (5)~~ members. Academic Red
189 and White Committees shall consist of at least one member who is untenured. The President of the
190 Senate may suspend the requirement and appoint members of both committees without regard to
191 tenure status if, in the Senate President's judgment, circumstances dictate. The duties of these

Formatted

Formatted: Not Expanded by / Condensed by

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Not Expanded by / Condensed by

192 committees include:

- 193 1. To study and evaluate curricula and instruction at both the undergraduate and graduate
194 levels. This function includes problems related to
- 195 • Teaching loads;
 - 196 • Class size;
 - 197 • Use of graduate and undergraduate assistants;
 - 198 • Admissions;
 - 199 • Retention and advancing standing of students; and
 - 200 • Testing and grading practices.
- 201 2. To strive to foster a proper balance between teaching and research.

202
203 The Executive Committee may choose to form subcommittees of Academic Committees which
204 would report their findings and recommendations to the Academic Committee for approval before
205 any requests or recommendations for action would be presented to the Senate.

206
207 **Section D. Faculty Committees**

208 The Committees of the Senate dealing with Faculty issues shall be designated as *Faculty Red* and
209 *Faculty White*.

210
211 Each Faculty committee shall consist of no more than seven (7) members. Faculty Red and White
212 Committees shall consist of at least one member who is untenured. The President of the Senate may
213 suspend the requirement and appoint members of both committees without regard to tenure status
214 if, in the Senate President's judgment, circumstances dictate. The duties of the committees shall be
215 to study intra-campus matters related to faculty interests not under the jurisdiction of other standing
216 committees.

217
218 The Executive Committee may choose to form subcommittees of the Faculty Committees which
219 would report their findings and recommendations to the Faculty Committee for approval before any
220 requests or recommendations for action would be presented to the Senate.

221
222 **Section E. Nominations and Elections Committee**

223 The Nominations and Elections Committee shall consist of at least five (5) senators. The Committee
224 shall make, subject to approval of the Senate, nominations and conduct elections which are
225 requested by persons or groups outside the Senate. The duties of the Committee shall be to:

- 226
227 1. Seek nominations from colleges, subject to approval by the Nominations and Elections
228 Committee, and conduct the elections for the faculty representatives on the University
229 Curriculum Committee, and
- 230 2. Recommend to the President of the University individuals to serve on University Standing
231 Committees and *ad hoc* committees.

232
233 **Section F. Faculty Representation on Senate**

234 Representation in the Faculty Senate shall be based on a ratio of one senator per seven faculty
235 members (or every major fraction thereof, excluding adjuncts) as identified by College or Unit. For
236 the purpose of faculty representation on Senate, faculty in administrative positions who are not
237 assigned to specific academic departments, schools, or colleges will be grouped with Library
238 faculty. One additional representative to the Faculty Senate shall hold the rank of adjunct
239 faculty. The adjunct faculty representative may be from any college, the library, or filling an

240 administrative position not assigned to a specific academic department, school, or college. The
241 adjunct faculty senator will not vote on matters pertaining to faculty retention, tenure, and
242 promotion. Reapportionment shall take place for every March election, except that no senator shall
243 be required to abandon a senate seat due to reapportionment before the senator's term has expired.
244

245 **Section G. Budget Review Committee**

246 The Budget Review Committee shall consist of at least four (4) faculty members, at least two (2) of
247 whom shall be senators. The duties and obligations of the Committee shall be as follows:
248

- 249 1. To participate in the preparation of the total institutional budget and in deliberations and
250 decisions relevant to the apportioning and reapportioning of funds among its specific fiscal
251 divisions, especially when such deliberations of proposed reallocation of funds is deemed to
252 affect academic effectiveness. The committee has the obligation to ensure the appropriate
253 number of representatives attend the sessions where such discussions and deliberations take
254 place.
- 255 2. To represent faculty interests and interpret the needs of faculty to the University President
256 and other officials relative to resource matters.
- 257 3. To provide direct communication to the Faculty Senate relative to the July budget, the
258 October budget revisions, and final budget revisions according to consultations with
259 administrative and budget officials. The committee shall have the authority to request
260 documentation of line item allocations within the budget and variations between budgeted
261 amounts and actual expenditures within any given fiscal year. The committee shall have the
262 authority to request rationales for such variations.
- 263 4. By special assignment, to function as a sub-committee to another Faculty Senate committee
264 if requested or needed by the other committee.
265

266 **Article VI**

267 **Election of Faculty Member to the University Board of Trustees**

268 **Section A: Appointment**

269 By the third Friday of September, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will contact all faculty
270 from each college and the constituted area of the Library to request nominations of faculty members
271 to be considered for election to the Austin Peay State University institutional governing board. Each
272 academic unit/department and the library will be afforded the opportunity to nominate one
273 representative who meets all of the required criteria. The selection process will originate within each
274 academic unit/department through a process of written or acceptable electronic nomination.
275 Written or electronic nominations must be submitted to the unit/department chair by a second
276 member of the unit/department faculty at least four (4) days prior to the departmental election. The
277 nomination must be signed by both the nominator and the nominee. The unit/department chair will
278 conduct the election via secret ballot and forward the results to Faculty Senate Executive Committee
279 no later than the first Friday in October. The various college nominees will then be put forward for
280 the final, university-wide election that will begin on the third Friday in October. There can be no
281 more nominees than colleges and the library during any given election cycle. The university-wide
282 faculty election will end by the last Friday in October. The nominee receiving the plurality of the
283 university-wide votes will serve as a member of the institutional board. In the event of a tie, the
284 Faculty Senate will conduct a

288 run-off vote. The faculty member receiving the majority of the run-off votes will serve as a member
289 of the institutional board. Rules governing the Faculty Senate voting process and quorum will be in
290 accord with the current Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws.

291
292 The elected faculty institutional board member will be recognized at the November meeting of the
293 Faculty Senate and will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Faculty Senate and the
294 Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

295
296 **Section B: Term**

297 The faculty member elected to serve as a member of the institutional board will serve a two-year
298 term, per state law. A faculty member may not serve consecutive terms. No faculty member shall
299 be eligible to serve more than two terms as a member of the institutional board during their
300 appointment at Austin Peay State University.

301
302 **Section C: Eligibility**

303 A faculty member will be considered eligible to serve as a member of the institutional board if the
304 individual meets the following criteria:

- 305
306
- The faculty member must be tenured;
 - The faculty member must be fully ranked;
 - The faculty member must have been employed at Austin Peay State University for a
309 minimum of seven consecutive years;
- 310

311 The Faculty Senate will vote to make the final determination in situations where a faculty member's
312 eligibility is in dispute. Rules governing the Faculty Senate voting process and quorum will be in
313 accord with the current Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws.

314
315 **Section D: Replacement**

316 If a faculty appointee is unable to fulfill the commitments of their two-year appointment, a special
317 election that is congruent with the steps outlined in Sections I and III of this document will be
318 conducted to fill the vacancy. Due to the potential urgency of such a situation, the special election
319 will be expedited to prevent a disruption of faculty representation to pertinent matters pertaining to
320 institutional board business. Upon election, the replacement will complete the remainder of their
321 predecessor's term. In the event of a faculty member's dismissal from the institutional board, a
322 replacement will be identified through a special election that is congruent with the steps outlined in
323 Sections I and III of this document. Because of the potential urgency of such a situation, the special
324 election will be expedited to prevent a disruption of faculty representation on the board. Upon
325 election, the replacement will complete the remainder of their predecessor's term.

326
327 **Section E: Duties and Expectations**

328 The faculty member of the institutional board will attend board meetings in an effort to represent
329 the interests, perspectives, and concerns of the faculty, staff, and the university as a whole. As an
330 ex-officio member of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the faculty
331 institutional board member will be expected to provide regular updates pertaining to institutional
332 board business. The faculty institutional board member will be expected to provide informational
333 updates and/or presentations during the Faculty Senate's regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344

Article VII
Adoption and Amendments to Bylaws

The Bylaws may be amended by a 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 present at a regular meeting after the meeting at which they are proposed.

Latest amendments passed ~~Month~~March ~~Day~~18, ~~Year~~2021.
