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UNIVERSITY SENATE
Rules and Bylaws
Amended April 27, 2021

Rules and Bylaws

I. Precedence. These rules are meant to supplement the Constitution of the University Senate. In any case in which these rules are, or appear to be, in conflict with the Constitution of the University Senate, the Constitution shall take precedence. However, in any case in which these rules are consistent with the Constitution but are in conflict with *Roberts Rules of Order*, these Rules shall take precedence.

II. Conduct of Senate Business

- A. Senate business may be conducted at regular and special meetings as determined in the Constitution as long as the quorum set in the Constitution is present.
- B. As indicated in the Constitution, the agenda for each regular meeting will be set by the Executive Committee and will be published at least one week prior to the meeting. The agenda for special meetings will be circulated with the call for the meeting. This call will also specify the date, starting time, duration, and location of the special meeting.
- C. Once it is published, the agenda for any meeting may only be altered by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting.
- D. The order for the agenda for regular meetings shall be as follows:
 - 1. Roll Call
 - 2. Minutes
 - 3. University President's Report
 - 4. Fix the Agenda for the remainder of the meeting
 - 5. Committee Reports
 - 6. Old Business
 - 7. New Business
 - 8. Open Discussion
 - 9. Announcements
 - 10. Adjournment
- E. All members of the Senate may vote on any issue before the Senate. Unless specified otherwise, any item that gathers more affirmative votes than negative votes will be considered to have passed.
- F. While it is usually a wise practice for the Presiding Officer to only vote either to create or break a tie, this practice is not binding. Thus, the Presiding Officer may vote on any matter that he/she chooses. However, if the Presiding Officer chooses to vote in the original roll call on a particular item, he/she shall not be entitled to a second vote in the case of a tie.
- G. During the course of any meeting, senators should wait to be recognized by the Presiding Officer before addressing the Senate.
- H. No official business of the Senate may be conducted after 5 P.M. for regular meetings or after the announced duration for special meetings.
- I. Only non-senators can act as designees for ex-officio Senate members, and each designee can only represent one ex-officio member at a single meeting.

III. Committees and Subcommittees

- A. As indicated in the Constitution there shall be a standing Rules and Bylaws Committee.
- B. At any regular or special meeting of the Senate additional standing and *ad hoc* committees and subcommittees may be proposed by the members of the Senate. Unless the proposal for the new committee was presented in the report of the Rules and Bylaws Committee, such proposals shall be referred to the Rules and Bylaws Committee for review and for the writing of the formal charge for the committee. The rules and Bylaws Committee will report back to the Senate at its next regular meeting that is at least one week after the meeting at which the committee was first proposed. In extreme cases where delay is not desirable, if the proposal for the new committee receives an affirmative vote from a majority of all of the members of the Senate present at the meeting, then the committee may be approved without the review of the Rules and Bylaws Committee.
- C. At the first meeting of each Senate Session, the full Senate shall approve or alter, as necessary, the existing committee structure. A majority vote of the Senators present will be required to alter the committee structure.
- D. In addition to the constitutionally mandated Rules and Bylaws Committee, the following standing committees shall be formed:
 - 1. Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence Committee
 - 2. Budget, Finance and Planning Committee
 - 3. Research Committee
 - 4. Nominations and Elections Committee
 - 5. Academic Affairs Committee
- E. The membership of these committees, in accordance with the rules below for each committee and excepting specific appointments outlined in those rules, shall be recommended by the Executive Committee to the full senate for their approval.
- F. Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence Committee
 - 1. The Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence Committee will advise the Senate on all matters related to aspects of student life. The Committee will pay special attention to those aspects of student life that relate directly to the educational process.
 - 2. The membership of the Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence Committee shall be comprised of the Vice President for Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence or his or her designee, the President of the Student Government Association (SGA), two other student senators, and four unrestricted senators.
- G. Budget, Finance and Planning Committee
 - 1. The Budget, Finance and Planning Committee will advise the Senate on all matters relating to the development, approval, and long-term implications of the University budget on the University's mission. The Committee will advise the Senate on all matters involving the utilization, maintenance, and improvement of the university's existing or future buildings and other facilities. The Committee will make recommendations with regard to the University's Master Plan and all other long range planning.
 - 2. The membership of the Budget and Planning Committee shall be comprised of one faculty member from each School or College, one non-classroom faculty member, one student, and two

unrestricted members of the senate. The University President, the Provost and the Vice President for Finance and Administration may each select a designee to serve on this committee.

H. Research Committee

1. The Research Committee will advise the Senate on matters relating to research and scholarly work carried out at the University, including, but not limited to, the adequate availability of facilities, resources and support for research by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students.
2. The membership of the Research Committee shall be comprised of a representative from ESU's Institutional Review Board, the head of the Office of Sponsored Projects and Research, the Director of Graduate & Extended Studies, a representative from the local Council of Undergraduate Research and six ESU faculty, of which four must be senators.

I. Nominations and Elections Committee

1. The Nominations and Elections Committee will solicit nominations to fill the positions of elected Senate officers, and will submit the list of nominees to the members of the executive committee at least one week prior to the meeting during which elections are held; however, nominations may still be made from the floor of Senate prior to the election of officers.
2. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall conduct the elections of elected Senate officers.
3. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall assist in the solicitation of nominations and/or the identification of Senators to serve on any unfilled Committee seats.
4. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall be comprised of five unrestricted senators; however, no current Senate officer or Senator who is nominated for senate officer shall serve on the committee.

J. Academic Affairs Committee

1. The Academic Affairs Committee will advise the Senate on matters pertaining to those academic plans, programs, rules, and regulations that are of concern to the University as a whole.
2. The membership of the Committee on Academic Affairs shall be the Provost or his or her designee, one Academic Dean, the Chair of the University-Wide Curriculum Committee, one faculty member each from each school or college, one non-classroom faculty member, academic affairs officer of the Student Government Association (SGA) (or his or her designee), one student member of the Senate, and a representative from the Provost's Academic Advisory Committee (as a non-voting member of the committee).

K. All Senate Standing Committees and those Ad Hoc committees still addressing their charge(s) shall:

1. No later than the second regular meeting of the Senate of each academic year, present to the Senate its goals and intended areas of interest and consideration for the year. To be included in the report are any charges that may have been directed to them by the Executive Committee or the Senate at large.
2. At each regular meeting of the Senate, provide an update on progress toward goals with a written report for the Secretary to include the dates of committee meetings and the names of the senators in attendance.
3. Submit materials, including arguments for and against proposals, in advance of the meeting so that the membership has an opportunity to review and discuss the material with their peers.

4. Provide an annual report of Committee activities with a written report to be made available to the Secretary.
 5. Annually review policies and procedures under their purview to make suggestions for changes and additions.
- L. At the first Senate meeting of the academic year, the Senate President shall ascertain whether there is a Senator(s) serving on the University's Academic Technology Advisory Committee. If there is none, the President shall charge the Nominations and Elections committee with soliciting nominations and conducting an election of a Senator to serve on that Committee.
- M. At the first Senate meeting of the academic year, the Senate President shall ascertain whether there is a Senator(s) serving on the University's Diversity and Inclusion Group. If there is none, the President shall charge the Nominations and Elections committee with soliciting nominations and conducting an election of a Senator to serve on that Committee.