CHANGES TO THE SENATE BYLAWS

All amendments and revisions have been included in the text of these revised Bylaws.

April 1971 Proposed Bylaws presented to University Senate.

October 29, 1973 Interim Bylaws for the Faculty Senate Approved for a two-year period.

November 3, 1975 Bylaws officially accepted (seven changes).


April 14, 1978 Amendment 2. Articles throughout. Terms of office for Senators, officers, and committees moved to the close of the regular Summer Quarter meeting of the Senate.

October 1, 1979 Amendment 3. Changes in committee size: Athletics, Executive, Faculty Affairs, Student Affairs.

January 14, 1980 Amendment 4. Time of election of Senators, qualifications and role of President-Elect, added charge to Nominating Committee.

February 18, 1980 Amendment 5. Articles throughout. Apportionment changed, added charge for Faculty Affairs Committee, Legislative Committee and Rhodes Committee added, conditions for appointment of proxies extended.


December 1, 1980 Amendment 7. Revise membership of Educational Policy Committee, delete Public Service Council.


February 15, 1982 Amendment 9. Revise membership of Educational Policy Committee, added charge for Faculty Affairs Committee, and Executive Committee Chairperson. Revisions in Articles IV and V.
February 14, 1983  Amendment 10. Articles throughout. Addition of continuing part-time faculty to Elected Faculty Members, addition of immediate Past President to apportionment, revision of Executive Committee membership, and deletion of University Councilors from Nominating Committee, deletion of entire section on representation to the University Council.

May 30, 1983  Amendment 11. Revisions throughout. Revision of ex-officio members to the Faculty Senate and chairpersons to the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils.

May 21, 1984  Amendment 12. Revisions throughout. Addition of the Provost, each Vice Provost, the Vice Chancellor for Business, Planning and Finance and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs as voting ex-officio voting members of the Senate.

July 15, 1985  Amendment 13. Revisions throughout. Graduate and Undergraduate Councils to report once a quarter through the Education Policy Committee; Vice Provosts to chair the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils; International Education Committee changed to function by the calendar year; membership revisions to Educational Policy, Executive, Athletics, and Professional Development committees; and modification of charge to Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee.

March 10, 1986  Amendment 14. Revision to sections concerning membership of the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils.


June 26, 1989  Editorial changes due to semester change and the addition of the Teaching Council.

July 13, 1989  Changes to student representation on Senate committees. Revising the names of student government organizations.

March 4, 1991  Article II, section 3 – changes in Senate meeting times.

Article III, A. – changes in descriptions of the composition, duties and charge of the Athletics Committee.
Article III, F. – changes in composition of the Executive Committee.

Article III, G. – deletion of administrators from the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Article IV, section 2 – Revision of policy on presidential succession.

Editorial changes in impose consistency throughout on use of capital letters in titles.

October 14, 1991

Article III, Section 2, F. – selection of representatives to THEFA.

Article II, Section 1. B.; Article II, Section 2.; Article II, Section 9; Article II, Section 10; Article III, Section I.; Article III, Section 2. I.; Other changes caused by change of schedule due to deletion of summer meeting.

September 20, 1993

Changes expediting curricular review of certain kinds of curricular changes.

April 4, 1994

Changes approved.

October 4, 1994

Article III, Section 2, E1 – addition of responsibilities to the Education Policy Committee.

Article III, Section 2, E2 – addition of ex-officio representation to the Undergraduate Council.

Article III, Section I – change in term of office to the International Education Committee.

Article III, Section E, K, M, N, O – changes of committee membership to reflect current administrative structure.

Article II, Section 3 – addition of regularly schedule January meeting; replaced working: terms with semesters.

February 25, 1995

Article II, Section 2 – changes in Elections, Nominations, and Vacancies and Proxies.

Article III, Section F – changes in Executive Committee and creation of Executive Council.
Section 8 – changes in the election of Committee of Committees.

August 8, 1996  
Article II, Section 3 – Deletion of second paragraph under Meetings.

Article III, Section 2 – Deletions and additions in the composition of the Athletics, Budget, and Development and Alumni Relations Committees.

June 8, 1998  
Article II, Section 2 – Additions concerning the procedures for Senators to place items on the Senate Agenda.

Article III, Section 2.P – Delete reference to the Learning Research Center since it no longer exists.

Article IV, Section 1 – Additions under “The President.”

April 5, 1999  
Article III, Section 2 – Replace Teaching Council Bylaws.

April 3, 2000  
Article III, Section 2, F (1) Deletion of Reference to THEFA.

Article III, Section 2 F (1) Revision of Membership paragraph for Executive Committee to read: “Membership shall consist of the chairs of the Standing Committees of the Senate; the officers of the Senate, including the Immediate Past President; and four at-large faculty members.

Deletion of References to “Chancellor” throughout.

Distinction between “election” and “appointment” when referring to committee members.

April 2, 2001  
extensive changes – see committee report at:  
http://web.utk.edu/~senate/BylawsRevisions 3-01.pdf

May 7, 2001  
extensive changes – see committee report at:  
http://web.utk.edu/~senate/BylawsRevisions4-01.pdf

April 1, 2002  
Article III, Section 3(e) Standing and Special Committees – (1) Graduate Council and (2) Undergraduate Council – Chairs of both bodies to be faculty members elected by the voting members of the body.
Article II, Section 10 and Article IV, Section 5: change name of “webmaster” to “Senate Information Officer”

Article III, Section 3, F – establish the chief officer for business and finance as member of the Executive Committee

April 29, 2002

Article II, Section 1 – the chief executive officer of the University (President) shall be an ex-officio member of the Senate.

August 16, 2002

Grammatical Revisions not requiring Senate approval; Article II, Section 10: correct spelling of “regarding”;

Article III, Section 3, A: delete “and” after Director of Student Recreation;

Article III, Section 3, A: add a period after the word “Student Senate”;

Article III, Section 3, E (1): delete last sentence “The Council shall report….” As redundant;

Check to make sure chronological history of By-Laws revisions are up to date.

October 21, 2002

Article II, Section 1, B (1): Change the first sentence to read: “Elective seats shall be apportioned in January of each year among the respective colleges and units by the clerical secretary of the Faculty Senate under the supervision of the Chair of the Committee of Nominations and Appointments.”

Article III, Section 2: replace “Secretary” with “clerical secretary of the Faculty Senate”;

Article II, Section 1, B, (1): Delete “as of April 2001” from first sentence;

Article II, Section 1, B, (1): Delete “Human Ecology” and “Information Sciences” and use new combined college names “Education, Health and Human Sciences” and “Communications and Information Sciences” instead;

Article II, Section 8: allow 4 nominees from the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences to be considered for election to two positions on the Committee on Committees;

Article III, Section 2: insert “two Senators from the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences”;
March 3, 2003

Article II, Section 1 – adding the category of alternate members;

Article III, Section 3, A – inserting the following sentence: “The Committee will also include the following non-voting ex-officio members: the Director of the Thornton Advising Center, the Associate Director of Women’s Athletics Compliance, the Associate Director of Men’s Athletics Compliance.”

April 28, 2003

Article I, Section 1(B) – change term limits for Senators; add new section (1) Duties of Faculty Senator; renumber other section accordingly

Article II, Section 2. Nominations. Changes in timetable of election process; specifies the elections administered by Senate President.

Article III, Section 8 – Delete old section (specifying process of election of Committee on Committees); NEW SECTION creating College or Division Caucuses

Article III, Section 2 – change membership for Committee on Nominations and Appointments (replaces Committee on Committees throughout); expands duties of this committee.

Article III, Section 3 C – Delete Bylaws Committee – duties assigned to Executive Committee. Paragraphs in this section renumbered and rearranged to restore alphabetical listing of committees.

Article III, Section 3 E (new numbering) – duties of Bylaws Committee assigned to Executive Committee
April 5, 2004

Article III, Section 3, extensive changes (see minutes) with the addition of the Appeals Committee and the Information Technology Committee; changing the membership and charges of the Faculty Affairs Committee, the Student Affairs Committee, the Educational Policy Committee, the Professional Development Committee; changing the membership of the Executive Committee; and deleting the Instruction with Technology Sub-Committee, the Development and Alumni Relations Committee, the Government Relations Committee, and the International Education Committee.

March 7, 2005

Article II, Section 2, Nominations changes responsibilities from President to President-Elect. Article II, Section 10, date change from August to July. Article III, Section 2, changed responsibilities from President to President-Elect. Article III, Section 3, Article C. changes to Budget adding and Planning Committee as well as membership. Section 3 Article D. eliminated. Article G. addition of Ex-officio member, Director of the Center for International Education. Article O. addition of Director of the Center for International Education, additional duties cover: study abroad.

August 27, 2007

Article III, Section 3 J: duties of Nominating Committee amended to include nomination of two candidates as faculty representatives to the University Faculty Council every third academic year.

Article III, Section 3 M: Student Affairs Committee renamed as the “Student Concerns Committee;” eligibility requirements for membership amended.

Article III, Section 3 O: Director of the Chancellor’s Honors Program added as an ex-officio (without vote) member of the Undergraduate Council.

March 24, 2008

Article III, Section 3 C: Changes to the composition and duties of the Budget and Planning Committee as indicated.
in the proposed amendment introduced January 28, 2008 and recorded in the minutes for that date.

March 23, 2009


Article III, Section 2, Subsection B, Paragraph 3. Change “…in tenure or promotion decisions, annual performance reviews, …” to “…in retention, tenure or promotion decisions; annual performance reviews; …”

Article III, section H. Change “Voting ex-officio members shall include the Dean of Libraries, …” to “Ex-officio members shall include the Dean of Libraries, the Executive Associate Dean of Libraries, …”

Article III, Section 2, Subsection K, Paragraph 3. Change “The Chair of the Undergraduate Council shall be a faculty member from the Undergraduate Council elected for a two-year term by voting members of the Undergraduate Council” to “The Chair of the Undergraduate Council shall be a faculty member from the Undergraduate Council, elected to a one-year term, following a one-year term as Vice Chair, by voting members of the Undergraduate Council.”

April 20, 2009

Article I, Section 3 – New section added.

Article II, Section 4. At the end of the section, added sentence: “Once a quorum is achieved at a meeting of the Faculty Senate, it cannot be lost before the meeting is adjourned.”

Article III, Section 1, Paragraph 2. At the end of the paragraph, add “Unless otherwise specified below, ex-officio members of committees shall be nonvoting members. Except for the President of the Senate, term of office for all officers, committee chairs and committee members shall be from August 1 to July 31.”

Article III, Section 2, Subsection G, Paragraph 4. Change “… agenda and minutes …” to “…agenda, a summary of substantive actions take and the minutes ….”
Article III, Section 2, Subsection K, Paragraph 4. Change “…agenda and minutes …” to “agenda, a summary of the substantive actions taken and the minutes ….”

Article III, Section 4. Changed to “In the event of a vacancy in the faculty membership of any committee, the vacancy shall be filled by action of the Executive Council.”

March 1, 2010

Article II, Section 10 Election of Officers. Change “prior service as an elected faculty member of the Faculty Senate within the last five years” to “prior service on the Faculty Senate (as an administrative member, an elected Faculty member or a committee, council, or task force member, or in another elected or appointed capacity) within the last five years.”

March 7, 2011

“Housekeeping” changes to the Bylaws. Changing names or titles to reflect current practices.

Correction of numerous references to Faculty Senate Executive Committee – changes to Faculty Senate Executive Council.

Article III, Section 2, Standing Committees/M. UT Athletics now reports to the UTK campus not the System.

Article II, Section 2, Standing Committees/H. Added to Graduate Council a statement of the duties of that body.

Removed “Changes to the Senate Bylaws” with stipulation that these would be kept in a separate document for historical reference.

Article II, Section B.2 – Changed Agricultural Extension Service to UT Extension.

Article II, Section 10. President-Elect eligibility criteria changed. This was approved March 1, 2010 and never changed in the bylaws.

Article III, Section 5 to include a written report submitted at the end of the academic year.

Article IV, Section 2. Change to remove the President-Elect as editor of the Faculty Senate Newsletter, and to make the President-Elect the chair of the Nominations and
Appointments Committee. Resultant change to section 5 to make the information officer the editor of the Faculty Senate Newsletter.

May 2, 2011

Article II, section 1A. Administrative Members. Changed from elected to appointed by chief Academic Officer of the Knoxville campus.

Article II, section 5. Voting. Deleted everything after the first two sentences.

Article III, section 2B. Appeals Committee. Deleted the second and third paragraphs in section and added new paragraph to reflect more accurately the information contained in the Faculty Handbook and Manual for Faculty Evaluation.

Article V. Amendments. Added the following: All changes to these Bylaws shall be documented and placed on the Faculty Senate website at a location proximate to these Bylaws in a document titled “Chronology of Amendments and Revisions to Faculty Senate Bylaws, 1971-Present.”