



Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance

August 26, 2013

Shared governance is a fundamental characteristic of the university. In 1966, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) adopted the Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities that describes general principles outlining the roles of faculty, administrators and governing boards. According to the AAUP (1994) the views of the faculty should be given the greatest weight in those areas in which faculty have the greatest expertise and responsibility. Thus, the faculty has primary responsibility for academic concerns including

- Curriculum
- Methods of instruction
- Subject matter
- Policies for admitting students
- Standards of student competence
- Maintenance of suitable environment for learning
- Aspects of student life that relate to the educational process

In addition, the faculty also has primary responsibility for issues related to faculty work life and professional responsibilities, including but not limited to

- Standards of faculty competence
- Research
- Faculty status

BACKGROUND

Western Kentucky University has a long-standing commitment to a collegial system of shared governance. From 1965 to 2000 the faculty of WKU were represented by a dual system of governance in which curriculum matters were overseen by the Academic Council while issues related to faculty work life were overseen by the Faculty Senate. In AY 2000 – 2001, following the recommendation of the Fisher Report, this structure was replaced by a single body, the University Senate.

The University Senate currently has four standing committees. The curriculum duties previously under the purview of the Academic Council are now handled by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Graduate Council, the Colonnade Committee (previously the General Education Committee) and the Academic Quality Committee. The matters that were previously under the purview of the Faculty Senate are now overseen by the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee and, when applicable, by the Academic Quality Committee.

At its March 2010 meeting, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee voted to form an ad hoc committee¹ to examine faculty curriculum and governance at WKU. At the April 2010 meeting, the Chair of the University Senate broadened the scope of the committee to include a full examination of the governance process. At that time, Andrew McMichael, committee chair, noted that there was a widespread perception on the part of the faculty and administration that the current governance process, including the curriculum process, was ineffective and moreover, that it was unlikely to be made more effective through mere modification.

In November 2010, the committee surveyed faculty members who had served as members of governance committees. A total of 68 responses were collected. One of the dominant themes to emerge from this survey was the perception that there is too little time or resources in the current structure to adequately address both curriculum issues and faculty welfare issues. This concern led the committee to consider a return to the previous system in which these issues were handled by two separate governance bodies. In March of 2011, a single-item survey was administered to the entire faculty assessing preference for the current, single body governance structure versus the previous system. Sixty percent of the respondents indicated that they somewhat, or strongly, preferred a system in which curriculum is reviewed by one body and non-curricular issues are reviewed by a second, separate body.

In the spring of 2011, the Senate created a second ad hoc committee charged with the task of outlining this new structure. In meeting this charge, the committee extensively considered the strengths and weakness of current and past structures. The attached documents describe a new structure that ideally, will meet the needs of a changing university.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED STRUCTURE

In brief, the proposal describes two bodies, the Academic Council and the Faculty Senate. The Academic Council, working through its standing committees, will ensure high quality academic quality and standards throughout the University. The Council will review proposals brought to it from the college curriculum committees and make recommendations on all matters related to academic quality and standards. One of the most frequent complaints about our current system is the perception that curriculum approval is slow. The committee determined that curriculum should be reviewed by a university-wide group of faculty, even though this does tend to slow the approval process. However, the proposed system would streamline the approval process by having all curricular standing committees beyond the college level working in parallel and resolving concerns when the entire Council meets (see figure in Academic Council Bylaws).

¹ Original committee members: Andrew McMichael, Paul Markham, Julie Shadoan, Michelle Hollis, Douglas Smith, Robert Dietle, Nevil Speer, Dawn Bolton, Larry Snyder, Sherry Powers and Kelly Madole.

The second governance body, the Faculty Senate, working through its standing committees, will function as the official representative voice of the faculty on matters relating to faculty status, faculty responsibilities and welfare, academic requirements and policies not otherwise under the purview of the Academic Council. The current proposal represents an attempt to broaden the scope and responsibilities of the standing committees and establish communication between the Senate and the numerous University committees with faculty representation.

Both bodies will have departmental representatives and college at large representatives. An issue that is often raised about faculty participation in governance is the need for some level of institutional memory among the faculty representatives. In order to better meet that need, the proposed term of membership has been set at 3 years, with no term limits. In addition, elections will be staggered, so that only 1/3 of the membership will be eligible for election each year.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FACULTY GOVERNANCE

Sharon Mutter, Chair (Psychology)

Mark Baum (Professional Studies)

Jim Berger (EALR, representing Academic Affairs, non-voting)

Mel Borland (Economics)

Brian Coutts (Library Public Services)

Robert Dietle (History)

Gordon Emslie (Academic Affairs, non-voting)

Claus Ernst (Mathematics)

Said Ghezal (Professional Studies, Business Management)

Cindy Houston (Teacher Education, Graduate Council)

Kelly Madole (past University Senate Chair, non - voting)

Julie Shadoan (Professional Studies, Paralegal Studies)

John White (Public Health)

PROPOSED TIMELINE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVIEW

Recommendations on the review process for the proposals of the ad hoc committee on Faculty Governance are listed below:

Phase 1 (Fall Semester 2013): Consultation with University Senate Executive Committee and WKU Faculty:

In August 2013, the ad hoc committee on Faculty Governance will submit its report to the University Senate Executive Committee for review and comments.

The SEC will post the report on the Senate website and invite faculty to read and comment on the proposals.

In October, the SEC will sponsor at least one public forum to allow faculty to comment and suggest changes to the proposal. For full consideration, suggestions for amendments to the proposal should be submitted to the Senate Chair in writing.

NOTE: The SEC will be responsible for evaluating all faculty comments and suggestions.

After the public forum, the SEC will review faculty comments and consult with the ad hoc committee on changes to the proposal. The SEC has the final authority to amend the proposal as it desires and the SEC (or persons the SEC delegates) will have the responsibility to make changes to the proposal to bring it into final form.

The SEC will forward the proposal, amended if necessary, to the full Senate with its recommendation.

Phase 2 (January and February 2014): The University Senate considers the proposal during the first two meetings of 2014.

At this point in the process, we recommend that:

- the Senate consider the entire proposal as a whole;
- the Senate have two readings of the proposal and vote on whether to accept the proposal after the second reading;
- the Senate specify that there will be no rewriting, editing, or amending the proposal on the floor during the voting process;
- in the event the Senate rejects the proposal, the Senate must decide whether it wants to continue efforts to create a new governance structure.

Phase 3 (February - March 2014): If the Senate approves the proposal, it will sponsor at least one public forum to allow faculty to discuss the final version of the proposal. After this forum, the Senate will hold a faculty referendum in March 2014. If the

proposal is approved by (a majority -- 2/3?)* of votes cast, the charters of the new governance structure will go to the April meeting of the Board of Regents for approval. After BOR approval, elections will be held in late April or the beginning of May and the new governance structure will go into effect in Fall 2014.

***NOTE: SEC will recommend what margin is necessary for passage. This recommendation will be part of the motion presented to the Senate in January 2014.**

Charter and Bylaws

Academic Council
of
Western Kentucky University

CHARTER
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
OF
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

I. PREAMBLE

In a collegial system, authority and responsibilities are shared among colleagues, some of whom have duties as faculty and others as administrators. The Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities, jointly formulated by the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (as adopted by the AAUP in 1966 and revised in 1990), outlines general principles governing the respective roles of governing boards, faculties, and administrators. In accord with the general principles outlined in this document, Western Kentucky University subscribes to the goal of a system of governance in which there are appropriately-shared responsibilities and cooperative action.

This Charter sets forth a structure for the Academic Council through which the faculty, administrators, and students of Western Kentucky University can exercise their collegial responsibility for the mission of the University. Every constituent shall have the opportunity to participate in this mission – either directly by serving on the Academic Council or indirectly by electing colleagues as representatives to the Academic Council.

II. FUNCTION

1. The Academic Council (hereafter “Council”) is charged with ensuring high academic quality and standards throughout the University. To achieve this goal, the Council

- a. provides oversight on all academic policies, programs, procedures, and standards for the entire University.
 - b. makes recommendations to the Provost on these matters.
- 2. General areas under the purview of the Council include
 - a. courses and academic programs; i.e., majors, minors, certificates, tracks, and any other grouping of courses.
 - b. university level academic policies, requirements, and regulations.
 - c. long-range academic goals, plans, and objectives of the University.
- 3. The Council reviews proposals and initiatives brought to it from duly established college curriculum committees; it provides advice to other committees, councils, or individual administrators on all matters relating to academic quality and standards; it may refer to committees, councils, or individual administrators assignments that are relevant to the academic issues within its purview; and it may initiate its own discussions and studies on any issue that affects the academic mission of the University.

III. COMPOSITION

A. Elected Membership (voting)

1. Representatives

Each department in the University (herein “department” is defined as any tenure-granting unit) will elect one representative and one alternate representative. Full-time faculty members, excepting those with appointments as department head or above, who have completed one year of full-time service at WKU are eligible to be representatives or alternate representatives

of the Council. The alternate shall have the full rights and privileges of an elected representative when substituting for a regular representative.

2. At-large Representatives

- a. The number of representatives for a college and the WKU Libraries (hereafter the WKU Libraries is designated as a “college”) shall be no fewer than one representative for each department within that college.
- b. Each college shall elect at-large representatives so that the total of the representatives from departments within the college and at-large representatives of that college is equal to eight percent (8%) of the total college full-time faculty, rounded to the nearest whole number. If the number of representatives from departments within a college exceeds 8% of the college full-time faculty, that college shall have no at-large representatives.
- c. To maintain this proportional representation, the number of at-large representatives to which each college is entitled will be calculated anew on February 1 of each calendar year.
- d. Each college shall elect one alternate representative to serve temporarily when the at-large college representative is unable to serve. The alternate at – large representative shall have the full rights and privileges of an elected at – large representative when serving for a regular at – large representative.
- e. Full-time faculty members, excepting those with executive administrative appointments (including acting or interim appointments), who have completed one year of service at WKU are eligible to be at-large or alternate at-large representatives of the Council.

3. Student Representatives

The Student Government Association, and the Graduate School in consultation with any designated graduate student organization, will each appoint one student representative and one alternate student representative.

B. Instructional Council (non-voting)

The Instructional Council serves in an advisory position to both the Provost and the Academic Council. Members of the Instructional Council will have the right to attend meetings of, and to address, the Academic Council but will not have the right to vote. Members of the Instructional Council will be appointed by the Provost and must include

1. the Provost or a representative of the Provost's Office.
2. a college representative appointed by the dean of that college.
3. a representative from the Professional Education Committee appointed by the chair of that committee.
4. a representative of the Graduate School appointed by the dean.
5. the Registrar or the Registrar's designee.

C. Term of Membership

1. Faculty Members

The term of membership for faculty members will be three (3) years, with one-third of the faculty membership rotating each year. A faculty member may be elected for consecutive terms and there are no term limits on eligibility for membership.

2. Student Members

The term of membership for student members shall be one year. Student members may succeed themselves only once.

D. Vacancies

1. If a voting member of the Council is absent without alternate representation from two regularly scheduled meetings during an academic year, or becomes ineligible to serve due to an extended absence from the University or to a change in appointment, the Chair may declare the member's position vacant.
2. Such vacancies shall be filled only for the unexpired term.

IV. OFFICERS

The Council shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its elected faculty members. The term for all officers will be one academic year. There are no term limits on holding office.

V. COMMITTEES

The Academic Council shall establish standing committees to have initial jurisdiction over its various functions. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chairs of the other standing committees, and advisory members of the Instructional Council. The Council may also establish ad hoc committees as needed to address issues outside the purview of the standing committees that impact the academic mission of the University.

VI. MEETINGS

The Academic Council shall meet in accordance with its Bylaws. Voting will be by a simple majority. A quorum for business shall be at least one-half of the voting membership.

VII. AGENDA

All matters that fall under the purview of Academic Council must be submitted for review by the Council and shall not be considered complete without Council action.

VIII. REVIEW OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Provost shall review all recommendations of the Academic Council.

1. If the Provost approves a recommendation, it shall become part of the policy of the University.
2. If the Provost does not approve a Council recommendation, the Provost shall provide written reasons for such to the Council.
3. If the Provost desires changes in any recommendation of the Council, the proposed changes must be submitted to the Council.

IX. AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER

Any full-time member of the faculty may propose an amendment to the Charter of the Academic Council. After review and approval by the Executive Committee, the proposed amendment will be added to the Council agenda. Council approval of proposed amendments will require two readings and the vote of two thirds of the voting members present. Upon approval by the Council, the recommended changes shall be forwarded to the Senate for review and subsequent action.

BYLAWS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
OF
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

I. THE MEMBERSHIP

A. Composition

1. In accordance with the Charter of the Academic Council, the voting membership will include elected departmental representatives, at – large representatives from each college, and undergraduate and graduate student representatives. The non-voting membership will include members of the Instructional Council and the Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant.
2. Faculty members who hold appointments in more than one college and/or department will be counted as a member of the department and college in which the majority of their time is assigned. If a faculty member is assigned equally between departments and/or colleges, the faculty member will be asked to select the unit for which the appointment will count for Council eligibility purposes.

B. The Officers and Their Functions

1. The Academic Council shall have a Chair and Vice-Chair elected annually by the membership of the University Senate at the April Senate meeting.
2. The Chair shall
 - a. conduct the meetings of the Academic Council and serve as the chair of the Executive Committee.

- b. set the time and place of regular meetings.
 - c. assign issues to the appropriate committee for study and possible action with the assistance of the Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant (hereafter referred to as administrative assistant).
 - d. determine, in consultation with the Executive Committee, whether issues to be presented to the Council constitute substantive matters that require a second reading.
 - e. serve as the Academic Council liaison to the University Senate and the Provost.
 - f. respond to requests from the President and Provost for the formation of ad hoc committees to study particular issues or to recommend faculty members to serve on a university committee.
 - g. make recommendations to the Council concerning rules and standards, proposed amendments, and procedural changes.
 - h. address other matters as deemed appropriate by the Council.
3. The Vice Chair shall perform all the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair. Additionally, the Vice Chair is responsible for organizing elections conducted by the Council.
4. The officers of the Academic Council shall serve in their respective positions for a period of one year or until successors are elected. They shall be eligible for reelection.
5. The terms of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall begin on August 1st.
6. The officers of the Council may be removed for cause, following the guidelines established in the most recent edition of Sturgis' *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*.

C. The Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant and Parliamentarian

1. The Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant shall serve under the direction of the Chair of the Academic Council and shall be responsible for providing support for all the day-to-day business of the Council. The duties of the Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant will be carried out by a staff member in the Office of Academic Affairs.

These duties will include

- a. keeping minutes of all Council meetings, and making the minutes available to members of the Council and the entire faculty by posting them on the Council Website within five workdays.
- b. keeping a list of the current Council membership, including the names of departmental representatives and alternates and at – large representatives and alternates along with their term expiration dates.
- c. keeping a record of attendance at public meetings of the Council.
- d. keeping minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee.
- e. maintaining communication with representatives of each college's Dean's office to ensure that all proposals to be considered by the Academic Council meet the Council's rules and standards.
- f. conducting a preliminary review of proposals submitted to the Council to ensure compliance with the Council's rules and standards and return proposals that are incomplete or non-compliant to the college representative.
- g. maintaining communication and cooperation with the Council's Chair regarding the routing of proposals to appropriate Council Standing Committees.
- h. assisting the Chair in preparing the Academic Council meeting agendas.
- i. maintaining the Academic Council website, which shall contain the list of the current Council membership with term expiration dates, standing committee membership, the Academic Council Charter and Bylaws, the

- current month's meeting agenda, and past meeting minutes.
 - j. announcing meetings to the Council membership.
 - k. coordinating the election and caucus schedules, including the certification of eligible faculty and students.
2. The Parliamentarian, who need not be a member of the Academic Council, will be appointed by the Executive Committee and will ensure that meetings are conducted according to standard parliamentary procedure. If an issue of procedure arises, the role of the Parliamentarian is to advise the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council as to the recommended resolution of the issue to move the meeting forward.

D. Elections

1. Any person eligible to serve as a representative is eligible to participate in the election of representatives to the Academic Council.
2. Under the direction of the Vice Chair, assisted by the Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant, departments shall hold elections for representatives. In February of the election year, each department shall elect a representative and an alternate representative. Elections shall be completed and the results reported to the College Dean and the Vice-Chair of the Council by March 31st.
3. Under the direction of the Vice-Chair, assisted by the Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant, Colleges shall hold elections for at-large representatives and alternates. The number of at-large representatives elected shall be based upon the current faculty numbers in each College per the representation requirements set forth in the Charter. In February of the election year, each department in the college may nominate up to three faculty members to a pool from which its college's at-large representatives and alternates shall be chosen. The list of nominees for each college shall be

published online and faculty within the college shall vote by electronic ballot, with the ballot being available for three days. Elections shall be completed and the results reported to the College Dean and the Vice-Chair of the Council by March 31st. Each eligible voter shall be permitted to vote for as many persons as positions being filled. Those with the highest number of votes shall be declared elected at – large representatives. In the event of a tie, a drawing to determine the winner shall be conducted by the Vice-Chair. The runners-up shall be placed in a pool hereafter called the At – Large Alternate Representative Pool. Alternate at – large representatives will be selected from this pool to attend the Senate meeting upon a planned absence of the elected at – large representative and replacements for at – large representatives will be selected from this pool when vacancies occur. In the latter case, the person with the highest number of votes shall be selected. The Alternate At – Large Representative Pool will be updated each time an election for at – large representatives occurs.

4. At the April Council meeting, the Chair shall hold a caucus of the representatives elected to serve the following academic year to determine membership on each of the Council standing committees. With the exception of the Executive Committee, each standing committee must have at least one representative from each college. In the event a college does not have enough elected representatives to serve on the standing committees of the Council, the elected representatives may appoint additional faculty members to fill the remaining committees or the elected representatives may serve on more than one standing committee.
5. If a departmental representative resigns, the alternate shall replace the resigning representative and the department will hold an election to replace the former alternate. If an at-large representative resigns, the individual with the highest number of votes in the college's Alternate At – Large Representative Pool shall replace the resigning representative.

6. If a representative is absent from two regularly scheduled Council meetings during an academic year without alternate representation, the Chair may declare the position vacant. If a departmental position is declared vacant, the department shall hold an election for a new representative and alternate. The Vice Chair of the Academic Council shall keep a complete record of the votes for at-large representatives for each college. If the position of an at-large representative in a college is declared vacant, the next eligible person in the Alternate At – Large Pool of that college shall become the at – large representative. If the pool is exhausted, the college will determine the mechanism for choosing a replacement for the vacant position.

E. Term of Office

Each elected representative shall serve for a term of three years beginning August 1 of the first year and ending July 31 of the third year, with the exception of the Student Government representatives. Members shall be eligible for reelection for consecutive terms without term limits.

The election of Academic Council members shall be staggered such that no more than one-third of the AC membership changes at any one time. Initially, members will be randomly assigned to serve two, three, or four years. Thereafter, the Council membership shall be for a term of three years.

II. MEETINGS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

- A. The Academic Council shall use email as the official means of communication with its membership.

- B. The Academic Council shall have an official website. The Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant shall be responsible for maintenance of the website under the direction of the Chair, Vice Chair, and the chairs of senate committees.

The website shall, at a minimum, contain

1. a list of the current Council membership, including the names of departmental representatives and alternates and at – large representatives and alternates along with their term expiration dates.
 2. a list of the current Council standing committee membership.
 3. the Charter of the Academic Council.
 4. the current month meeting agenda.
 5. past meeting minutes.
- C. The Academic Council shall meet once a month during the academic year unless the frequency of meetings is changed by a vote of the Council. The date, time, and place of the meetings are to be determined by the Chair of the Council at the beginning of each academic year.
- D. The agenda, committee reports and/or resolutions to be considered by the Council shall be posted on the website with notice to the membership at least seven days prior to the meeting.
- E. The Chair may call a special meeting with the concurrence of the majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee. The Chair must call a special meeting in a timely fashion upon the written request of at least ten members of the Academic Council or upon the request of the Provost.
- F. If a departmental representative and departmental alternate representative cannot attend a Council meeting, the departmental representative can send any member of the department to the Council meeting. If the at – large representative and at –

- large alternate representative cannot attend a Council meeting, the at – large representative can send any person in the college at - large pool.
- G. A quorum of the Academic Council shall be a majority of the voting membership. Business conducted up to the point that an absence of a quorum is established and announced by the chair is assumed to have been conducted with a quorum present.
 - H. Any representative may make a motion from the floor, which if seconded, shall be addressed by the Council.
 - I. The Academic Council shall use the most recent edition of Sturgis' *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* to govern its meetings.
 - J. All meetings of the Academic Council shall be open to all members of the faculty and other interested parties. Visitors shall be permitted to address the Council at the discretion of the Chair.
 - K. A vote by the Academic Council or a Council Standing Committee may be conducted electronically. The conditions and requirements for conducting an electronic vote for the full Council shall be specified by the Executive Committee and those for a Council Standing Committee shall be specified by the Standing Committee.

III. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

The standing committees of the Council are the Executive Committee, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the General Education Committee, and the Graduate Curriculum Committee.. Every member of the Council shall be a member of a standing committee. The composition and duties of the standing committees are as follows:

A. The Executive Committee

The Academic Council Executive Committee, hereafter ACEC, shall be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chairs of the other standing committees, and Provost or Provost's representative. The ACEC may be called to meeting by the Chair as needed.

The functions of the ACEC shall be

1. to construct the Academic Council calendar containing deadlines for submission of Standing Committee reports to the Chair of the Council and dates of regularly scheduled Standing Committee and Academic Council meetings.
2. to provide advice to the Chair of the Academic Council on whether issues to be presented to the Council constitute substantive matters that require a second reading.
3. to meet with the Executive Committee of the University Senate to integrate recommendations on matters of concern to both bodies.

B. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) shall have two types of responsibilities: 1) to review particular undergraduate programs and courses to determine whether they meet established standards and 2) to review and make proposals to the Academic Council concerning university-wide undergraduate academic policies. University-wide undergraduate academic policies include such matters as admission requirements, undergraduate degree and graduation requirements, and all similar matters that have application or significance beyond a single college.

The functions of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee shall be

1. to review existing undergraduate programs and new program proposals in light of the university's mission statement.
2. to review any undergraduate academic matters such as degree and graduation requirements, standards of scholastic achievement, rules and regulations governing faculty-student relations.
3. to review existing undergraduate courses and new courses having significant consequences that cross college lines.
4. to study any undergraduate curricular matter it chooses.
5. to study undergraduate matters assigned to it by the Chair of the Academic Council.

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee shall include at least one Council representative from each college and the SGA, as many additional members as self-allocated during the Council caucus, and an advisory member appointed by the chair of the Professional Education Committee.

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee shall review and consider proposals routed to it by the Chair of the Council and shall provide its comments, suggestions, and recommendations regarding each proposal in a report to the Council. As part of the review process, the UCC shall consult with other standing committees of the Council as appropriate. The UCC may also initiate study of other issues relating to the undergraduate curriculum or academic policy and address these issues in a report to the Council.

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee shall place items forwarded by the Chair of the Academic Council on its agenda. In his/her report to the committee, the UCC Chair shall inform the members of all information items submitted by the college curriculum committees. (See Appendix A for a definition of “information item.”) All consent items submitted by the college curriculum

committees shall be placed on the consent agenda. (See Appendix A for a definition of “consent item.”) All action items submitted by the college curriculum committees shall be placed on the action agenda. (See Appendix A for a definition of “action item.”) Any member of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee shall have the option of removing a consent item from the consent agenda and placing it on the action agenda for regular review. The Chair of the UCC shall submit a report setting forth these consent and action items and its recommendations to the Chair of the Academic Council by the date set forth in the Academic Council calendar. Recommendations to reject a proposal must include a rationale for this decision. Upon Council approval, the report shall be forwarded as a recommendation to the Provost.

It is not the role or responsibility of the Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or the Committee membership to edit proposals for grammar and formatting. The college curriculum committees shall be responsible for ensuring that proposals are free from grammatical errors and follow the formats and guidelines established by the UCC. The Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant will review all submitted proposals and those that require substantial editing will be returned to the proponent. UCC proposal guidelines and forms can be found online at: www.wku.edu/ucc.

C. The General Education Committee

The General Education Committee (GEC) shall function as the faculty review body to make recommendations regarding matters pertaining to general education. The GEC shall have two types of responsibilities: 1) to make proposals to the Academic Council concerning the structure, content, and assessment of general education, and 2) to review courses proposed for general education to determine whether they meet established standards.

The functions of the General Education Committee shall be

1. to develop and review general education guidelines, performance standards, and course criteria.
2. to review existing courses and to consider new courses proposed for general education.
3. to engage in a continuing evaluation of the effectiveness of the general education program.
4. to study all matters it chooses pertaining to general education.
5. to study matters assigned to it by the Chair of the Academic Council.

The General Education Committee shall include at least one Academic Council member from each college and as many additional members as self-allocated during the Council caucus.

The General Education Committee shall review and consider proposals routed to it by the Chair of the Council and shall include its comments, suggestions and recommendations regarding each proposal in a written report to the Council. As part of the review process, the GEC shall consult with other standing committees as appropriate. The GEC may also initiate study of other issues relating to the general education curriculum or academic policy and address these issues in a report to the Council.

The oversight of the general education program includes such matters as establishing standards for general education and monitoring the effectiveness of general education. Proposals concerning such matters shall be submitted to the Academic Council for approval. The General Education Committee shall also review all course proposals submitted by college curriculum committees for general education credit. The Chair of the General Education Committee shall submit a report setting forth consent and action items and its recommendations to the Chair of the Academic Council by the date set forth in the Academic Council calendar. Recommendations to reject a proposal must include a rationale for this

decision. Upon Council approval, the report shall be forwarded as a recommendation to the Provost.

D. The Graduate Curriculum Committee

The Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC) shall review particular graduate programs and courses to determine whether they meet established standards.

The functions of the Graduate Curriculum Committee shall be

1. to receive, review, and act upon academic course and program proposals being submitted through the approval process.
2. to review existing graduate courses and new courses having significant consequences that cross college lines.
3. to study any graduate curricular matter it chooses.
4. to study graduate matters assigned to it by the Chair of the Academic Council.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee shall include at least one Council member from each college and as many additional members as self-allocated per the Council caucus. All faculty on the GCC must hold graduate faculty status. Advisory members will include the dean of the Graduate School or his representative and a member appointed by the chair of the Professional Education Committee.

The GCC shall review and consider proposals routed to it by the Chair of the Academic Council and shall include its comments, suggestions, and recommendations regarding each proposal in a written report to the Council. As part of the review process, the GCC shall consult with other standing committees of the Council as appropriate. The GCC may also initiate study of other issues relating to the graduate curriculum or academic policy and include these issues on its written report to the Council.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee shall place items forwarded by the Chair of the Academic Council on its agenda. In his/her report to the committee, the GCC Chair shall inform the members of all information items submitted by the college curriculum committees. All consent items submitted by the college curriculum committees shall be placed on the consent agenda. All action items submitted by the college curriculum committees shall be placed on the action agenda. Any member of the GCC shall have the option of removing a consent item from the consent agenda and placing it on the action agenda for regular review. The Chair of the GCC shall submit a report setting forth the consent and action items and its recommendations to the Chair of the Academic Council by the date set forth in the Academic Council calendar. Recommendations to reject a proposal must include a rationale for this decision. Upon Council approval, the report shall be forwarded as a recommendation to the Provost.

IV. RULES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Meetings: Standing committees shall meet at least once each month during the academic year. Special meetings may be called by the committee chair upon the request of a majority of the committee members. The day, time, and place of all meetings shall be published so that interested parties may attend a committee meeting. Visitors shall be permitted to address the committee at the discretion of the committee chair.
- B. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of voting members of the committee.
- C. Voting Requirements: A simple majority of the quorum is required for a legal vote.
- D. Officers: Each committee, except the Executive Committee, shall elect its own

Chair.

- E. The Chairs of all standing committees shall be members of the Academic Council and shall serve on the Executive Committee during their term as Chair.
- F. Advisory members of committees who are not members of the Academic Council shall have the right to speak on the floor of the Council when matters related to their committee are being debated, but they shall not have voting rights. In committee sessions, they shall have the same rights as Council-elected members of the committee.

V. AD HOC COMMITTEES

The Chair of the Academic Council, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall have the right to appoint an ad hoc committee in response to an identified need or to an administrative request. The composition of such a committee shall be determined by the situation. Where appropriate, the rules for Standing Committees shall govern the organization and operation of an ad hoc committee. An ad hoc committee shall be disbanded after it has completed its investigation and reported its findings to the Academic Council.

VI. ACADEMIC COUNCIL PROPOSAL PROCESS

A. Process Outline

1. Course, program and/or academic policy proposals are created according to the most current Academic Council Guidelines, which are posted on the Council website. Course and program proposals are approved by appropriate department and college curriculum committees and are then forwarded electronically by the designated college representative to the Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant. Each new course and program proposal must be accompanied by a resource affidavit to be completed by the college

dean on a form provided by the Academic Council and posted on the Council's website. New program proposals must also be submitted to the CPE for posting in cooperation with the Office of Academic Affairs. All other proposals not requiring college approval may be forwarded electronically by the proponent to the Administrative Assistant.

2. The Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant reviews each proposal for compliance with Academic Council Guidelines. Non-compliant proposals are returned automatically to the designated college representative. Compliant proposals and resource affidavits are forwarded electronically to the Chair of the Council for review and routing to (1) the Instructional Council; (2) one or more of the Academic Council Standing Committees, as appropriate; and (3) for proposals concerning university – wide policies that have implications for tenure and promotion or work life, to the Chair of the University Senate. At this time, the Administrative Assistant also posts a Master Copy of each proposal on the Council website for the purpose of editing, comment, and recommendation by the Instructional Council and other Standing Committees.
3. The Chair of each Academic Council Standing Committee prepares an agenda for that Committee's public meeting that is posted on the Council's website at least one week prior to the meeting date. Each proposal proponent must be present at the Standing Committee's public meeting. After the conclusion of its public meeting, the Chair of the Standing Committee submits the Committee's edits and comments to the Master Copy of each proposal and the Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant notifies any other committees reviewing the proposal that changes have been made. The Chair also submits a report to the Chair of the Council containing its recommendations for each proposal.
4. The Chair of the Academic Council reviews the Master Copy of each proposal as well as the Instructional Council and Standing Committee

recommendations. For new program proposals, the Chair inquires as to the status of the CPE posting. If a proposal receives conflicting committee recommendations, this conflict will be addressed at the meeting of the Executive Committee. The Chair will invite the proposal's proponent to attend this meeting and if there is no resolution of the conflict, the proposal will be returned to the college for revision. Recommendations for proposals reviewed by a single committee that are not supported by the Executive Committee will go to the full Council without the endorsement of the Executive Committee.

5. The Chair prepares an agenda for the public meeting of the Academic Council, which is posted on the Council's website at least one week prior to the meeting date. The departmental representative from a college that originates a proposal should be prepared to address any questions or concerns about the proposal that are raised by the Council at its public meeting. If the departmental representative does not feel capable in this regard, he/she must ensure that the proposal proponent be present at this public meeting.
6. The Chair of the Academic Council prepares and submits electronically a report of its public meeting with recommendations for each proposal to the Provost and posts the report on the Council's website.
7. The Provost reviews all recommendations of the Academic Council and provides a response within 30 days. Recommendations approved by the Provost become part of the policy of the University. If the Provost does not approve a Council recommendation, the Provost provides written reasons for such to the Council. If the Provost desires changes in any recommendation of the Council, the proposed changes are submitted to the Council.

B. Academic Council Proposal Process Diagram

The proposal process outlined above is outlined by the diagram attached hereto and

incorporated herein as Figure 1.

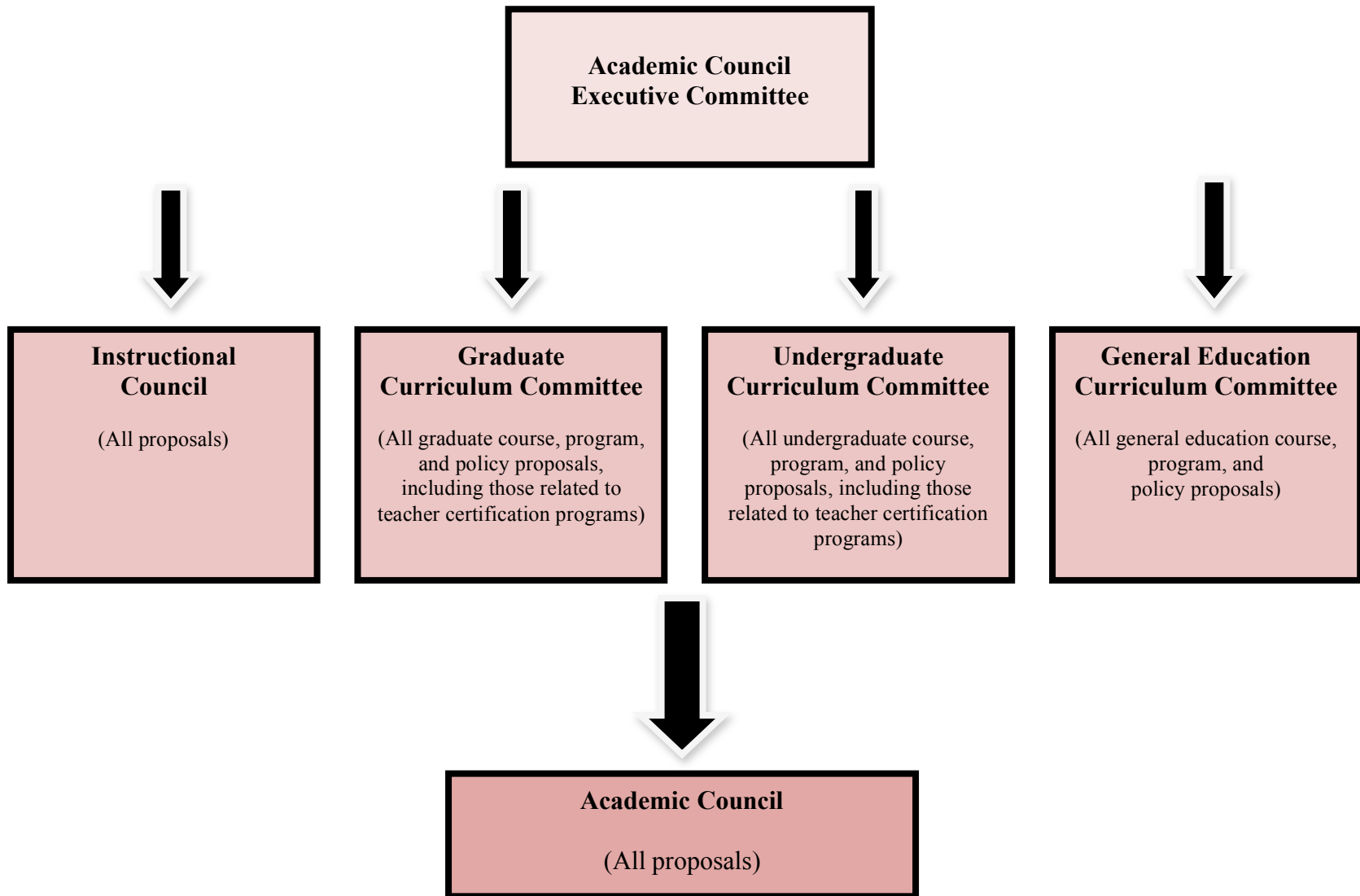
C. Academic Council Proposal Guidelines

The procedures for proposal routing and formats, types and formats of agenda items, deadlines, and other procedures not specified herein but deemed necessary for carrying out the mission of the Academic Council as defined in these Bylaws shall be governed by the Academic Council Guidelines, which shall be posted on the Council website.

VII. AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to the Bylaws of the Academic Council require two readings and a 2/3 majority vote.
2. Amendments to the Guidelines, proposals formats, forms, and operation procedures require a simple majority vote.

FIGURE 1



Charter and Bylaws

Faculty Senate
of
Western Kentucky University

**CHARTER
FACULTY SENATE
OF
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**

I. PREAMBLE

In a collegial system, authority and responsibilities are shared among colleagues, some of whom have duties as faculty and others as administrators. The Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities, jointly formulated by the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (as adopted by the AAUP in 1966 and revised in 1990), outlines general principles governing the respective roles of governing boards, faculties, and administrators. In accord with the general principles outlined in this document, Western Kentucky University subscribes to the goal of a system of governance in which there are appropriately-shared responsibilities and cooperative action.

This Charter sets forth a structure for the Faculty Senate through which the faculty, administrators, and students of Western Kentucky University can exercise their collegial responsibility for the mission of the University. Every constituent shall have the opportunity to participate in this mission – either directly by serving on the Faculty Senate or indirectly by electing colleagues as representatives to the Faculty Senate.

II. FUNCTION

- A. The Faculty Senate (hereafter “Senate”) is the agency for the articulation and presentation of the views of the faculty on academic and professional matters that pertain to the university as a whole. To achieve this goal, the Senate

1. functions as the official representative voice of the faculty on matters concerning faculty status, faculty responsibilities and welfare, academic requirements and policies not otherwise the purview of the Academic Council (hereafter “Council”), and any other matters of importance to the faculty.
2. advises and makes recommendations to the President and Provost on these matters.

B. General areas under the purview of the Senate include, but are not limited to

1. matters relating to faculty worklife.
2. faculty welfare (e.g., benefits and compensation).
3. oversight, review, and revision of the Faculty Handbook.
4. academic quality.
5. fiscal affairs.
6. strategic planning.

C. The Faculty Senate reviews proposals brought forward by its standing committees, faculty at large, administrators and/or students. It consults with and/or provides advice to other committees, councils, administrators and/or students on all matters relating to faculty life; it may refer to committees, councils, or individual administrators assignments that are relevant to the issues within its purview; and it may initiate its own discussions and studies on any issue that affects faculty and the University.

D. For Academic Affairs policies, the Senate consults and provides advice and comment on drafts of new policies as well as on the repeal or revision of existing policies. For policies arising out of other units within the University, the Senate may also provide such advice and consultation. In addition, the Senate may initiate the creation of new policies.

III. COMPOSITION

A. Elected Membership (voting)

1. Representatives

Each department in the University (herein “department” is defined as any tenure-granting unit) will elect one representative and one alternate representative. Full-time faculty members, excepting those with appointments as department head or above, who have completed one year of full-time service at WKU are eligible to be representatives or alternate representatives of the Senate. The alternate shall have the full rights and privileges of an elected representative when substituting for a regular representative.

2. At-large Representatives

- a. The number of representatives for a college and the WKU Libraries (hereafter the WKU Libraries is designated as a “college”) shall be no fewer than one representative for each department within that college.
- b. Each college shall elect at-large representatives so that the total of the representatives from departments within the college and at-large representatives of that college is equal to eight percent (8%) of the total college full-time faculty, rounded to the nearest whole number. If the number of representatives from departments within a college exceeds 8% of the college full-time faculty, that college shall have no at-large representatives.
- c. To maintain this proportional representation, the number of at-large representatives to which each college is entitled will be calculated anew on February 1 of each calendar year.

- d. Each college shall elect one alternate representative to serve temporarily when the at-large college representative is unable to serve. The alternate at – large representative shall have the full rights and privileges of an elected at – large representative when serving for a regular at – large representative.
- e. Full-time faculty members, excepting those with executive administrative appointments (including acting or interim appointments), who have completed one year of service at WKU are eligible to be at-large or alternate at-large representatives of the Senate.

B. Ex Officio Membership (non-voting)

Ex officio members serve in an advisory position to the Senate. Members will have the right to attend meetings and to address the Senate but will not have the right to vote. Ex officio members include

- 1. the President or a representative of the President’s Office.
- 2. the Provost or a representative of the Provost’s Office.
- 3. the Deans of the Colleges and Graduate School or their representatives.
- 4. the Faculty Regent.

C. Term of Membership

The term of membership for faculty members will be three (3) years, with one-third of the faculty membership rotating each year. A faculty member may be elected for consecutive terms and there are no term limits on eligibility for membership.

D. Vacancies

1. If a voting member of the Council is absent without alternate representation from two regularly scheduled meetings during an academic year, or becomes ineligible to serve due to an extended absence from the University or to a change in appointment, the Chair may declare the member's position vacant.
2. Such vacancies shall be filled only for the unexpired term.

IV. OFFICERS

The Council shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary from among its elected faculty members. The term for all officers will be one academic year. There are no term limits on holding office.

V. COMMITTEES

The Senate shall establish standing committees to have jurisdiction over its various functions. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Chairs of the other standing committees, and as ex officio members, the Provost and Faculty Regent. The Senate may also establish ad hoc committees as needed to address issues outside the purview of its standing committees.

VI. MEETINGS

The Senate shall meet in accordance with its Bylaws. Voting will be by a simple majority. A quorum for business shall be at least one-half of the voting membership.

VII. AGENDA

All matters that fall under the purview of the Faculty Senate must be submitted for review by the Senate and shall not be considered complete without Senate action.

VIII. REVIEW OF FACULTY SENATE RECOMMENDATIONS

A. The Provost shall review the record of actions by the Senate.

1. If the Provost agrees with recommendations of the Senate, they shall be the policy of the University subject to approval by the President and Board of Regents, if required.
2. If the Provost disagrees with recommendations of the Senate, the Provost shall provide in writing to the Senate reasons for his/her disagreement
3. If the Provost desires revision to any recommendation by the Senate, the proposed revisions must be submitted the Senate for reconsideration.

B. The President shall review those recommendations forwarded directly to him/her by the Senate.

1. If the President agrees with recommendations of the Senate, they shall be the policy of the University subject to approval by the Board of Regents, if required.
2. If the President disagrees with recommendations of the Senate, the President shall provide in writing to the Senate reasons for his/her disagreement or present his/her reasons in person before the Senate at its regular meeting.

IX. AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER

A proposed amendment to the Charter of the University Senate may be submitted to the SEC by Senate members or by a committee of the Senate. The SEC shall present

the proposal, along with its own recommendation, to the membership of the Senate. An amendment must have two readings and be approved by a two-thirds majority of the membership present.

X. IMPLEMENTATION

The Faculty Senate as set forth herein shall be established and this Charter adopted when approved by the Board of Regents of WKU, and shall replace any prior existing Senate.

BYLAWS
FACULTY SENATE
OF
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

I. THE MEMBERSHIP

A. Composition

1. In accordance with the Charter of the Senate, the voting membership will include elected departmental representatives, at – large representatives from each college, Non-voting, ex officio membership will include the President, the Provost, and the Deans of the Colleges and Graduate School or their representatives.
2. Faculty members who hold appointments in more than one college and/or department will be counted as a member of the department and college in which the majority of their time is assigned. If a faculty member is assigned equally between departments and/or colleges, the faculty member will be asked to select the unit for which the appointment will count for Senate eligibility purposes.

B. The Officers and Their Functions

1. The Senate shall have a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary elected annually by the membership of the University Senate at the April Senate meeting.
2. The Chair shall
 - a. conduct the meetings of the Senate and serve as the chair of the

Executive Committee.

- b. set the time and place of regular meetings.
- c. assign issues to the appropriate committee for study and possible action with the assistance of the Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant (hereafter referred to as administrative assistant).
- d. determine, in consultation with the Executive Committee, whether issues to be presented to the Senate constitute substantive matters that require a second reading.
- e. serve as the Senate liaison to the Academic Council and the Provost.
- f. respond to requests from the President and Provost for the formation of ad hoc committees to study particular issues or to recommend faculty members to serve on a university committee.
- g. make recommendations to the Senate concerning rules and standards, proposed amendments, and procedural changes.
- h. address other matters as deemed appropriate by the Senate.

3. The Vice Chair shall

- a. perform all the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair.
- b. keep a list of the membership.
- c. coordinate the election and caucus schedules, including the certification of eligible faculty and students.

4. The Secretary shall

- a. keep minutes of all Senate meetings, and make the minutes available to members of the Senate and the entire faculty by posting them on the Senate Website within five workdays.
- b. keep a record of Senate attendance.
- c. keep minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee.
- d. assist the Chair in preparing the Senate meeting agendas.

- e. announce meetings to the Senate membership.
- 5. The officers of the Academic Senate shall serve in their respective positions for a period of one year or until successors are elected. They shall be eligible for reelection.
- 6. The terms of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall begin on August 1st immediately succeeding the election.
- 7. The officers of the Senate may be removed for cause, following the guidelines established in the most recent edition of Sturgis' *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*.

C. The Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant and Parliamentarian

- 1. The Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant shall serve under the direction of the Chair of the Faculty Senate. The duties of the Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant will be carried out by a staff member in the Office of Academic Affairs. These duties will be to maintain the Senate website, which shall contain a list of the current Senate membership and standing committee membership, the Faculty Senate Charter and Bylaws, the current month's meeting agenda, and past meeting minutes.
- 2. The Parliamentarian, who need not be a member of the Faculty Senate, will be appointed by the Executive Committee and will ensure that meetings are conducted according to standard parliamentary procedure. If an issue of procedure arises, the role of the Parliamentarian is to advise the Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate as to the recommended resolution of the issue to move the meeting forward.

D. Elections

1. Any person eligible to serve as a representative is eligible to participate in the election of representatives to the Senate.
2. Under the direction of the Vice-Chair, departments shall hold elections for representatives. In February of the election year, each department shall elect a representative and an alternate representative. Elections shall be completed and the results reported to the College Dean and the Vice-Chair of the Senate by March 31st.
3. Under the direction of the Vice-Chair, colleges shall hold elections for at-large representatives and alternates. The number of at-large representatives elected shall be based upon the current faculty numbers in each College per the representation requirements set forth in the Charter. In February of the election year, each department in the college may nominate up to three faculty members to a pool from which its college's at-large representatives and alternates shall be chosen. The list of nominees for each college shall be published online and faculty within the college shall vote by electronic ballot, with the ballot being available for three days. Elections shall be completed and the results reported to the College Dean and the Vice-Chair of the Senate by March 31st. Each eligible voter shall be permitted to vote for as many persons as positions being filled. Those with the highest number of votes shall be declared elected at – large representatives. In the event of a tie, a drawing to determine the winner shall be conducted by the Vice-Chair. The runners-up shall be placed in a pool hereafter called the At – Large Alternate Representative Pool. Alternate at – large representatives will be selected from this pool to attend the Senate meeting upon a planned absence of the elected at – large representative and replacements for at – large representatives will be selected from this pool when vacancies occur. In the latter case, the person with the highest number of votes shall be selected. The Alternate At – Large Representative Pool will be updated each time an election for at – large representatives occurs.

4. At the April Senate meeting, the Chair shall hold a caucus of the representatives elected to serve the following academic year to determine membership on each of the Senate standing committees. With the exception of the Executive Committee, each standing committee must have at least one representative from each college. In the event a college does not have enough elected representatives to serve on the standing committees of the Senate, the elected representatives may appoint additional faculty members to fill the remaining committees or the elected representatives may serve on more than one standing committee.
5. If a departmental representative resigns, the alternate shall replace the resigning representative and the department will hold an election to replace the former alternate. If an at-large representative resigns, the individual with the highest number of votes in the college's Alternate At – Large Representative Pool shall replace the resigning representative.
6. If a representative is absent from two regularly scheduled Senate meetings during an academic year without alternate representation, the Chair may declare the position vacant. If a departmental position is declared vacant, the department shall hold an election for a new representative and alternate. The Vice Chair of the Senate shall keep a complete record of the votes for at-large representatives for each college. If the position of an at-large representative in a college is declared vacant, the next eligible person in the Alternate At – Large Pool of that college shall become the at – large representative and the at – large alternate. If the pool is exhausted, the college will determine the mechanism for choosing a replacement for the vacant position.

E. Term of Office

Each elected representative shall serve for a term of three years beginning August 1 of the first year and ending July 31 of the third year. Members shall be eligible for reelection for consecutive terms without term limits.

The election of Faculty Senate members shall be staggered such that no more than one-third of the Senate membership changes at any one time. Initially, members will be randomly assigned to serve two, three, or four years. Thereafter, Senate membership shall be for a term of three years.

II. MEETINGS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

- A. The Senate shall use email as the official means of communication with its membership.
- B. The Senate shall have an official website. The Faculty Governance Administrative Assistant shall be responsible for maintenance of the website under the direction of the Chair, Vice Chair, and the chairs of senate committees.

The website shall, at a minimum, contain

- 1. a list of the current Senate membership, including the names of departmental representatives and alternates and at – large representatives and alternates along with their term expiration dates.
 - 2. a list of the current Senate standing committee membership.
 - 3. the Senate Charter.
 - 4. the current month meeting agenda.
 - 5. past meeting minutes.
- C. The Senate shall meet once a month during the academic year unless the frequency of meetings is changed by a vote of the Senate. The date, time, and place of the meetings are to be determined by the Chair of the Senate at the

- beginning of each academic year. The agenda, committee reports and/or resolutions to be considered by the Senate shall be posted on the website with notice to the membership at least seven days prior to the meeting.
- D. The Chair may call a special meeting with the concurrence of the majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee. The Chair must call a special meeting in a timely fashion upon the written request of at least ten members of the Senate or upon the request of the Provost.
 - E. If a departmental representative and departmental alternate representative cannot attend a Senate meeting, the departmental representative can send any member of the department to the Senate meeting. If an at – large representative and an at – large alternate cannot attend a Senate meeting, the at – large representative can send any person in the college at - large pool.
 - F. A quorum of the Senate shall be a majority of the voting membership. Business conducted up to the point that an absence of a quorum is established and announced by the chair is assumed to have been conducted with a quorum present.
 - G. Any representative may make a motion from the floor, which if seconded, shall be addressed by the Senate.
 - H. The Faculty Senate shall use the most recent edition of Sturgis' *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* to govern its meetings.
 - I. All meetings of the Senate shall be open to all members of the faculty and other interested parties. Visitors shall be permitted to address the Senate at the discretion of the Chair.
 - J. A vote by the Senate or a Senate Standing Committee may be conducted

electronically. The conditions and requirements for conducting an electronic vote for the full Senate shall be specified by the Executive Committee and those for a Senate Standing Committee shall be specified by the Standing Committee.

III. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The standing committees of the Senate are the Executive Committee, the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, the Academic Quality Committee, and the Benefits and Budget Committee. The composition and duties of the standing committees are as follows:

A. The Executive Committee

The Senate Executive Committee (hereafter SEC) shall be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Chairs of the other standing committees, and, as ex officio members, the Provost and Faculty Regent.

The functions of the SEC shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. to set the time and place of regular meetings and to prepare the agenda for each Senate meeting
2. to function as liaison between the Senate and the President and Provost, meeting with each one at least twice a semester
3. to respond to requests from the President and Provost for the formation of an ad hoc committee to study a particular issue or to recommend faculty members to serve on a university committee
4. to review standing committee reports and/or ad hoc committee reports and vote to include the reports on the regular Senate agenda

5. to take provisional action in lieu of full Senate review when urgent action is needed and it is impractical to call a meeting of the full Senate. Such actions will be reviewed by the full Senate at its next meeting.
6. to assist the Chair in assigning issues to the appropriate committee for study and possible action
7. to make recommendations to the Senate concerning Senate rules and by-laws, proposed amendments, and procedural changes
8. to conduct elections for Faculty Regent as required by state statute
9. to establish the pool from which faculty members will be chosen to serve on the Faculty Grievance and Continuance Committees as described below
10. to serve as a liaison to the faculty in communicating the current issues under review by the Senate and its committees and in describing the accomplishments of the Senate
11. The SEC shall have the right to appoint an ad hoc committee in response to a need which it has identified or to an administrative request

B. The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee

The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee (hereafter FWPRC) shall include at least one Senate representative from each college and as many additional members as self-allocated during the Senate caucus. The FWPRC shall review and consider proposals routed to it by the Executive Committee and shall include its comments, suggestions, and recommendations regarding each proposal in a written report to the SEC. As part of the review process, the FWPRC shall consult with other standing committees of the Senate as appropriate. The FWPRC receives reports and recommendations from the Faculty Handbook committee and serves as the official liaison between this committee and the Senate. The FWPRC may also initiate study of any issue relating to faculty welfare and faculty responsibilities and address these issues in its written report to the SEC.

The functions of the FWPRC shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. to make recommendations concerning the responsibilities and obligations of the faculty person in his/her role as scholar and teacher
2. to make recommendations concerning faculty evaluation and the recognition of outstanding performance in teaching, scholarship (research) and university service.
3. to make recommendations on policies, criteria, and procedures for faculty recruitment, appointment, reappointment, promotion, tenure, post-tenure review, salary, workload, working conditions, summer teaching, sabbatical leave, leave of absence, professional travel expenses, off-campus teaching and service, and consulting activities as expressed in the Faculty Handbook.
4. to furnish advice on policies and procedures relating to retirement programs, insurance plans, sick/medical leave, tenure, and other matters relevant to faculty welfare
5. to study any matter pertaining to faculty responsibilities and welfare it chooses;
6. to make recommendations concerning policies and procedures related to faculty grievances
7. to study matters assigned to it by the SEC

The Chair of the FWPRC shall submit a report setting forth recommendations it may have relating to faculty issues to the Senate Chair at least seven days prior to the SEC's meeting for approval to include the report on the Senate agenda. Upon approval by the SEC, the report shall be placed on the Senate agenda for the next scheduled Senate meeting. Upon Senate approval, the report shall be forwarded as a recommendation to the Provost.

C. Academic Quality Committee

The Academic Quality Committee (hereafter AQC) shall include at least one Senate representative from each college and as many additional members as self-allocated during the Senate caucus. The AQC shall review and consider proposals routed to it by the SEC and shall include its comments, suggestions, and recommendations regarding each proposal in a written report to the SEC. As part of the review process, the AQC shall consult with other standing committees of the Senate as appropriate. The AQC may also initiate study of any issue relating to the University's academic mission and address these issues in its written report to the SEC.

The functions of the AQC shall include but are not limited to the following:

1. to study any matter it chooses pertaining to the academic mission and policy of the University
2. to explore additional ways to strengthen the academic culture at WKU
3. to study and monitor changes in advising policies
4. to study and monitor changes in the Drop/Add policy
5. to study and monitor the changes to the grading system
6. to study matters assigned to it by the SEC

The Chair of the AQC shall submit a report setting forth recommendations it may have relating to issues before it to the Senate Chair at least seven days prior to the SEC meeting for approval to include the report on the Senate agenda. Upon approval by the SEC, the report shall be placed on the Senate agenda for the next scheduled Senate meeting. Upon Senate approval, the report shall be forwarded as a recommendation to the Provost.

D. Fiscal Affairs Committee

The Fiscal Affairs Committee (hereafter FAC) shall include at least one Senate representative from each college and as many additional members as self-

allocated during the Senate caucus. The FAC shall review and consider proposals routed to it by the SEC and shall include its comments, suggestions, and recommendations regarding each proposal in a written report to the FAC. As part of the review process, the FAC shall consult with other standing committees of the Senate as appropriate. The FAC may also initiate study of any issue relating to the faculty benefits and/or University budget and address these issues in its written report to the SEC.

The functions of the FAC shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. to study any matter it chooses pertaining to benefits and budgets of the University
2. to furnish advice and make recommendations on policies and procedures relating to matters of University budgets, retirement programs, insurance plans, family leave, sick/medical leave and other benefit matters
3. to consult appropriate experts regarding issues affecting the University's finances and employee benefits
4. to study matters assigned to it by the SEC

The Chair of the FAC shall submit a report setting forth recommendations it may have relating to issues before it to the Chair at least seven days prior to the SEC's meeting for approval to include the report on the Senate agenda. Upon approval by the SEC, the report shall be placed on the Senate agenda for the next scheduled Senate meeting. Upon Senate approval, the report shall be forwarded as a recommendation to the Provost.

E. Rules of Standing Committees

1. Meetings: Standing committees shall meet at least once each month during the academic year. Special meetings may be called by the committee chair upon the request of a majority of the committee members. The day, time, and place

of all meetings shall be published on the Senate website by the Staff Editor so that interested parties may attend a committee meeting. Visitors shall be permitted to address the committee at the discretion of the committee chair.

2. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of voting members of the committee.
3. Voting Requirements: A simple majority of the quorum is required for a legal vote.
4. Officers: Each committee, except the SEC, shall elect its own Chair. The Chairs of all standing committees shall be members of the Senate.
5. Appointed members of committees who are not members of the Senate shall have the right to speak on the floor of the Senate when matters related to their committee are being debated, but they shall not have voting rights. In committee sessions, they shall have the same rights as Senate-elected members of the committee.

F. Ad Hoc Committees

The Senate may establish ad hoc committees as needed to address issues outside the purview of the standing committees. An ad hoc committee may also be created in response to an administrative request.

A majority vote by the SEC will decide if an ad hoc committee will be created. The SEC will specify the task, membership, and a timetable for the ad hoc committee. Where appropriate, the Rules for Standing Committees shall govern the organization and operation of the ad hoc committee. An ad hoc committee shall be disbanded after it has completed its investigation and reported its findings to the Senate. Senate-recommended members of ad hoc committees shall serve until the committee has completed its task and is dismissed.

G. Faculty Representation on Other Committees

1. Faculty Handbook Committee

The Handbook Committee receives proposed changes to the Handbook that have been approved by the Faculty Senate and the Provost. The committee reviews and incorporates approved changes in new Handbook editions, ensuring that the integrity and spirit of the change is maintained and is consistent with the existing Handbook. The committee is also responsible for monitoring and recommending policies and procedures for future Handbook revisions. The Handbook committee reports to the FWPRC standing committee of the Faculty Senate.

The functions of the Handbook Committee shall be to

- a. maintain a record of all proposed revisions to the Faculty Handbook, whether or not approved, including the source, the content, and the approval authority of the revision.
- b. incorporate changes to the Faculty Handbook recommended by the University Senate and approved by the Provost.
- c. ensure that the Faculty Handbook is widely and easily available to faculty and is up-to-date.
- d. set a deadline by which substantive revisions to be included in the next version of the Faculty Handbook must be submitted for review by the Handbook Committee, and announce that deadline at the University Senate's first meeting of the academic year.

The Handbook Committee is composed of the immediate past chair of the University Senate who will serve as chair, and one tenured faculty member from each college of the University selected by the faculty from such college. The Vice Chair of the University Senate will oversee selection of college

representatives. If the immediate past Senate chair is no longer employed by the University, any past Senate chair who continues to be employed by the university may serve as chair of the committee. The current chair of the Faculty Senate and a representative from the office of the Provost shall also be members of the Faculty Handbook Committee but shall not have a vote.

2. In addition to faculty responsibility and welfare matters, there are many activities in the university that affect academic programs. Examples include the selection of the President and Executive Officers, institutional budget priorities, building priorities and design of academic facilities, instructional technology, goals and objectives of major fund raising efforts as related to academic matters, scholarship policies, selection of major nonacademic administrators, support services related to academic functions, general policies regarding intercollegiate athletics, campus safety, transportation and parking policies, etc. In these matters, it is appropriate that faculty opinion be considered along with that of others and faculty should be afforded membership on the relevant University committees. Upon the request of the President or delegated administrative officer the SEC will recommend faculty members to serve on such committees. This applies both to standing committees and ad hoc committees formed to study and make recommendations on any issue of special importance to faculty. Faculty members representing the Senate on a standing university committee shall normally serve for two years, but may serve for a longer term to conform to the norm for that committee. One faculty representative who serves on a standing university committee shall regularly report to the Senate, and shall timely keep the Senate abreast of the activities of the committee on which he/she is serving.
3. The President is authorized to establish an Advisory Committee on Faculty Continuance and Tenure, an Advisory Committee on Faculty Grievance, and a University Complaint Committee. Faculty representatives to these committees

will be elected via the Senate in accordance with procedures outlined in the Faculty Handbook

IV. FACULTY SENATE PROCEDURES

A. Reports, Recommendations, and Resolutions

The Senate shall act on all items received either from its standing and/or ad hoc committees or from its members. The Senate shall also act through its committees, receiving for information reports of committee actions. The Senate may also vote to review a committee action.

1. Reports, recommendations, and resolutions are forwarded electronically to the Chair of the Senate for review and routing, as appropriate, to one or more of the Senate Standing Committees, and for matters concerning university – wide academic policies, to the Chair of the Academic Council. At this time, the Administrative Assistant also posts a Master Copy of each item on the Senate website for the purpose of comment and recommendation.
2. The Chair of each Faculty Senate Standing Committee prepares an agenda for that Committee's public meeting that is posted on the Senate's website at least one week prior to the meeting date. After the conclusion of its public meeting, the Chair of the Standing Committee submits the Committee's edits, comments, and recommendations to the Master Copy, which triggers automatic notification to any other committees reviewing the item that changes have been made. The Standing Committee Chair also submits a report to the Chair of the Senate containing its recommendations for each item.
3. The Chair of the Senate prepares an agenda for the public meeting of the Senate, which is posted on the Senate's website at least one week prior to the meeting date.

4. Members can make motions from the floor under new business at the public meeting of the Senate.
5. As a result of its review, study, consultation and discussion, the Senate takes action and/or makes recommendations for action at its public meeting. The Chair of the Senate prepares and submits electronically a report of its public meeting with recommendations and resolutions to the Provost and posts the report on the Senate's website.
6. The Provost reviews all recommendations and resolutions of the Senate and provides a response within 30 days, if possible. Recommendations approved by the Provost become the policy of the University subject to approval by the President and Board of Regents, if required. If the Provost does not approve a Senate recommendation, the Provost shall written reasons for such to the Senate. If the Provost desires changes in any recommendation of the Senate, the proposed changes are submitted to the SEC for reconsideration.
7. The President reviews all recommendations and resolutions forwarded directly to him/her by the Senate and provides a response within 30 days, if possible. Recommendations approved by the President become the policy of the University subject to approval by the Board of Regents, if required. If the President does not approve a Senate recommendation, the President shall provide written reasons for such to the Senate or present his/her reasons in person before the Senate at its regular meeting.

B. University Policies

For Academic Affairs policies, the Senate will be consulted and asked to provide advice and comment on drafts of new policies as well as on the repeal or revision of existing policies. For policies arising out of other units within the University,

the Senate will also be asked to provide such advice and consultation. In addition, the Senate may initiate the creation of new policies.

1. The procedure for creation, substantial revision, or repeal of Academic Affairs policies is as follows:
 - a. The Chair will place the draft policy, or policy revision, on the action agenda of the next meeting of the SEC.
 - b. The SEC will review the draft policy and
 - i. may agree to include the policy on the action agenda of the next Senate meeting, along with a determination as to whether the draft policy requires a second reading by the Senate.
 - ii. may agree to forward the policy to a standing committee or an ad hoc committee for additional review and revision. Reviews of draft policies that have been referred to a committee should be completed in a timely manner and returned to the SEC.
 - c. For each draft policy placed on the action agenda of the Senate, the Senate may vote to
 - i. recommend that the Provost take steps to pursue approval of the policy in accordance with University Policy on Policies. The Provost will provide a written response to the recommendation, including a status report or justification if the recommendation is not endorsed at the next senate meeting.

- ii. not approve the recommendation and return it to the SEC with questions, comments, or revisions. The SEC would then proceed as in A.2.
- 2. The procedure for creation, substantial revision (as determined by the SEC), or repeal of policies that are sent to the senate for review by units outside of Academic Affairs (see WKU Policy 0.000), is as follows:
 - a. The Chair will place the draft policy, or policy revision, on the action agenda of the next meeting of the SEC.
 - b. The SEC will review the draft policy and
 - i. may provide input to the Responsible Office and place the draft policy on the information agenda of the next Senate meeting.
 - ii. may proceed as in A.2.
- 3. The procedure for minor revisions (as determined by the SEC) of existing policies is as follows:
 - a. The draft policy revision will be placed by the Chair on the action agenda of the next meeting of the SEC.
 - b. The SEC will review the draft policy revision and will provide input to the Provost or other Responsible Officer and place the draft policy on the information agenda of the next Senate meeting.

V. AMENDMENTS

A proposed amendment to the Charter of the University Senate may be submitted to the SEC by Senate members or by a committee of the Senate. The SEC shall present the proposal, along with its own recommendation, to the membership of the Senate. An amendment must have two readings and be approved by a two-thirds majority of the membership present.