Resolution to Change the Terms of Service for Faculty, Students, and Staff on University Council and Commissions
Commission on Faculty Affairs
CFA 2019-20D

First reading, Commission on Faculty Affairs March 6, 2020
Approved, Commission on Faculty Affairs March 20, 2020
Faculty Senate Review March 16, 2020
Staff Senate Review March 30, 2020
Graduate Student Assembly Review March 19, 2020
Student Government Association Review April 8, 2020
First reading, University Council April 20, 2020
Second Reading, University Council May 4, 2020
Approved, President
Approved, Board of Visitors
Effective date Upon Approval

WHEREAS, the constitutional limits to their length of service on University Council and the commissions make it difficult for faculty, staff, and students to gain and benefit from experience contributing to these central components of shared governance; and

WHEREAS, the length of service for administrators on University Council and the commissions is open-ended; and

WHEREAS, the requirement that the vice presidents of Faculty and Staff Senates serve as chairs of the Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) and the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs (CSPA) limits the flexibility of the senates to distribute responsibilities among their members; and

WHEREAS, students would like the option to serve up to three consecutive one-year terms on University Council and commissions; and

WHEREAS, Faculty and Staff Senates would prefer that any limits to the length of service for their representatives on University Council and the commissions are maintained within their respective bylaws and not the University Council Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Faculty and Staff Senates would prefer that rules for determining the chairs of CFA and CSPA are maintained in their respective bylaws and not the University Council Constitution; and

WHEREAS, both senates would retain the option to have their vice presidents serve as commission chairs of CFA and CSPA and thereby maintain this respected tradition; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Council Constitution will be updated as follows; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all relevant documents will be updated accordingly.
Article IV. Membership/Section 3. Term of Membership

Term of membership of elected representatives on University Council is as follows: Faculty and staff representatives are elected for terms of three years and are not eligible for re-election to a consecutive term; if they represent one of the senates, then eligibility for re-election is subject to the by-laws of the respective senate. When additional faculty are elected at the beginning of the academic year to maintain a faculty majority over voting administrators, those faculty will serve a one-year term. Student representatives are elected for one-year terms and are not eligible to serve more than up to three consecutive terms two years. The at-large faculty/staff representative elected by the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity serves a one-year term and is eligible to serve up to three consecutive terms for one year. Vacancies in unexpired terms are filled by the relevant body. Persons filling an unexpired term are eligible for re-election to a full term. Elections are effective the first day of July. (Last updated on June 13, 2005 – BOV approved)

Article VII. University Commissions/Section 4. Election of Chair

The chair shall be a member of the non-administrative faculty and staff members of the commission except as noted below. (Professional faculty representatives are eligible to serve as chair.) The chairs of the Commission on Faculty Affairs and the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs shall be elected by the Faculty Senate and Staff Senate, respectively, in accordance with their bylaws. The Vice President of the Faculty Senate shall be the chair of the Commission on Faculty Affairs. The Vice President of the Staff Senate shall be the chair of the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs. The chair of the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs shall be elected from among the elected administrative and professional faculty members. The chair of the Commission on Student Affairs shall be elected from among the commission membership. All commission chairs serve one-year terms and are eligible for re-election.

The Commissions on Faculty Affairs and Staff Policies and Affairs may elect a vice chair if desired. For all other commissions, a vice chair shall be elected from among the continuing eligible members as early as possible during the academic year, but no later than the end of October. The vice chair shall serve as needed during the current year and shall succeed the current chair of the commission. Should the vice chair be unable to succeed the current chair, the commission shall elect a chair from among eligible members. The Commission on Faculty Affairs and Staff Affairs may elect a vice chair if desired; however, the chair positions will be held by the vice presidents of the respective Senates.

Article VII. University Commissions/Section 6. Term of Membership

Terms of membership of elected representatives on Commissions are as follows: Faculty Senators, Staff Senators, representatives of college faculty, library faculty, administrative and professional faculty, the salaried staff, and any other elected non-student commission members are elected for a term of three years. The number of terms they may serve is determined by the electing body. They may serve no more than two full consecutive terms on any given commission. Terms are staggered to permit election of approximately one-third of the membership each year. Deans are elected by the Council of College Deans and serve for two years. The student representatives serve for terms of one year and are not eligible to serve more than up to three consecutive terms. Elections are effective the first day of July.
The Faculty Senate firmly believes in the right of all members of the Virginia Tech community to have elected representation in our shared governance system. This resolution affirms that right.

The Faculty Senate strongly supports this resolution.
MEMORANDUM

To:       April Myers  
From:     Tamarah Smith, Staff Senate President  
Date:     4-10-20  
SUBJECT:  CFA Resolution 2019-20D  

A vote went out to Staff Senate on CFA Resolution 2019-20D. All responses were in favor for this resolution.
2019-2020

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TO: April Myers
FROM: Judy Alford
DATE: March 30, 2020
SUBJECT: CFA 2019-20D

The Policies and Issues Committee of the Staff Senate reviewed the Resolution to Change the Terms of Service for Faculty, Students, and Staff on University Council and Commissions (CFA 2019-20D). We support this resolution.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

c: Tamarah Smith