

Commission on Faculty Affairs

**RESOLUTION TO UPDATE ARTICLES V, VI, AND XI OF THE FACULTY SENATE
CONSTITUTION**

CFA 2024-25G

Draft Notice Sent to University Council Cabinet	December 7, 2024
First Reading by Commission	February 14, 2025
Approval by Commission	February 28, 2025
First Reading by Faculty Senate	February 21, 2025
Approval by Faculty Senate	March 7, 2025
Staff Senate Comment	February 18, 2025
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	March 17, 2025
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Comment	February 15, 2025
Undergraduate Student Senate Comment	None Received
First Reading, University Council	March 17, 2025
Approved, University Council	April 7, 2025
Approved, President	April 11, 2025
Effective Date	Upon Approval

WHEREAS, Article V of the Faculty Senate Constitution delineates the roles and responsibilities of the elected officers of the Faculty Senate; and

WHEREAS, Article VI of the Faculty Senate Constitution defines the membership and duties of the Faculty Senate Cabinet; and

WHEREAS, Article XI of the Faculty Senate Constitution defines the process by which the Constitution and Bylaws are amended; and

WHEREAS, a continual examination of the shared governance system and the interaction of the Faculty Senate with other governing bodies has led to suggestions for improvements; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to further clarify the role of Faculty Senate leadership and to expedite the process by which the Faculty Senate Constitution is revised as a result of ratified changes to the University Council Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate be revised per the following changes noted below in red.

Article V. Officers (excerpt)

Section 1. Officers of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate shall have a president, vice president, and operations officer elected by members of the Faculty Senate from elected senators. The previous president serves as the immediate past president. The president may appoint a parliamentarian from elected senators.

President

The duties of the president include representing the faculty as the main point of contact and primary advocate for faculty to external entities including **as the elected faculty representative to** the Board of Visitors and the administration, presiding at all meetings of the Faculty Senate and cabinet, and performing duties prescribed in this constitution and its accompanying bylaws. Due to the demands of the office, the president is ineligible for membership on commissions or university standing committees, unless required by the role or when policy designates *ex officio* appointment.

Article VI. The Faculty Senate Cabinet (excerpt)

Section 1. Membership and Functions

The members of the Faculty Senate Cabinet are the officers of the Faculty Senate, **and** one senator from each college and the University Libraries, **the chair of the Policy and Procedure Committee, and the elected chairs of the Commissions assigned to the Faculty Senate.** An officer may serve as their college's representative on the cabinet, provided they are elected in that capacity by senators from their college. Given the variability of faculty experience in shared governance, the president of the Faculty Senate may also appoint up to ~~two non-voting advisers~~ **three advisory members** to the cabinet.

The functions of the cabinet are to serve as the executive body of the Faculty Senate, to which it is responsible and to which it reports regularly on the disposition of matters submitted to it; to ~~act on behalf~~ **administer the business** of the Faculty Senate between Senate meetings; and to discharge duties in accordance with this constitution and its accompanying bylaws.

Article XI. Amendments to the Faculty Senate Constitution or Bylaws (excerpt)

Section 1. Development

Amendments to the constitution or bylaws may be developed by whatever means the Senate deems appropriate. ~~Amendments to the constitution require the approval of a resolution by the Commission on Faculty Affairs; amendments to the bylaws do not.~~ Any amendment to the Faculty Senate Constitution that is not prompted by an amendment to the University Council Constitution requires approval through a resolution by the Commission on Faculty Affairs. When the University Council Constitution is amended, any content in the Faculty Senate Constitution that is directly replicated from the

University Council Constitution will be incorporated automatically as a self-executing update, provided that the amendment has been ratified by the Faculty Senate and approved through the governance process as outlined in the University Council Constitution. Amendments to the Faculty Senate Bylaws do not require a resolution by the Commission on Faculty Affairs.

One-fifth of faculty eligible for election to the Faculty Senate may petition the president of the university to convene a meeting of faculty eligible for election to the Faculty Senate to make changes to the constitution.

Section 2: Approval of Amendments to the Faculty Senate Constitution

Amendments to the constitution **not resulting from self-executing updates** become effective upon the following sequence of actions:

- a. An affirmative majority vote by the Commission on Faculty Affairs.
- b. An affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the senators present and voting, provided that a quorum has been reached.
- c. An affirmative vote in the University Council of the majority of members present and voting, provided that a quorum has been reached.
- d. Approval by the president of the university.



Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)

25 Graduate Life Center (0186)

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Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Email: gpss@vt.edu

Website: gpss.vt.edu

Comment on CFA 2024-25G:

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate waives its right to comment on CFA 2024-25G: Resolution to Amend Articles V, VI, and XI of the Faculty Senate Constitution.

On behalf of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate,
Ronnie Mondal
President



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ADHOC COMMITTEES

Staff Senate

<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>

February 18, 2025

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

The Staff Senate Committee on Policy and Issues has reviewed and approves CFA Resolution 2024-25G.

We have no further comment.

**Thank you,
Amber Robinson, Chair Staff Senate Policies and
Issues Committee**



Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

<https://governance.vt.edu/ap-faculty-senate.php>

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March 17, 2025

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

From: A/P Faculty Senate Polices and Issues Committee

The A/P Faculty Senate Polices and Issues Committee has reviewed and approves/endorsees the Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 2024-25G to Update Articles V, Vi, and XI of the Faculty Senate Constitution.

We have no further comment.