

## **Minutes from the February 23, 2022 Faculty Senate Bylaws Revision Vote**

The Faculty Senate held a meeting to vote on the proposed revisions to the bylaws on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 3:30 PM over Zoom.

### **Attendance**

Present: Anne Anderson, Jake Avila, Vaughn Barry, Vishwas Bedekar, Lando Carter, Claire Cook, Sally Ann Cruickshank, Douglas Dabbs, Betsy Dalton, Andrea Dawson, Rudy Dunlap, Michelle Finch, Robert Gordon, Lisa Green, Michael Hein, Renee Jones, Rebecca King, Rachel Kirk, Lei Miao, Kari Neely, Martha Norkunas, Todd O’Neill, John Ouellette, Sharon Parente, Alicia Pence, Ariana Postlethwait, Pat Richey, Dianna Rust, Scott Seipel, Daniel Smith, Ben Stickle, Suzanne Sutherland, Zhen Wang, Andrew Wyatt

Absent (excused): Jeremy Aber, Sal Barbosa, Francis Koti, Preston MacDougall, David Nelson

Absent (unexcused): Larry Burris, Rick Cottle, Song Cui, Laura Dubek, Chistina Hiers, Seth Jones, Kyle Kennedy, Dan Morrell, Stephen Salter, Raj Srivastava

Faculty Senate President Bob Gordon called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Anne Anderson moved to accept the proxy votes given to Gordon by five senators who were unable to attend, and Pat Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Anderson, chair of the Bylaws of the MTSU Faculty Senate Review Committee, introduced eight proposed revisions to the bylaws. Senators were asked to discuss each proposed revision after which senators made separate motions to vote on each revision. Senators ultimately approved eight of the nine originally proposed revisions as it was determined the ninth had been made in error. Gordon conducted eight polls on Zoom. Proxy votes were factored into these eight poll results.

### **Article II Section 1**

Current language: .... The Department of Military Science should be represented by members of the cadre at or above the rank of Captain.

Proposed language (additional language in italics): .... The Department of Military Science should be represented by members of the cadre at or above the rank of Captain *who will serve as ex-officio members*.

Anderson called for discussion of the proposed revision to Article II Section 1.

Daniel Smith moved to vote on the proposed revision, and Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried. Gordon conducted an anonymous vote using Zoom polls.

The revision to Article II Section 1 passed by unanimous vote.

## **Article II Section 2**

Current language: ... Each academic unit shall be entitled to be represented directly by one of its faculty members.

Proposed language (additional language in italics): ...Each academic unit *as defined in policy 251* shall be entitled to be represented directly by one of its faculty members.

Anderson called for discussion of the proposed revision to Article II Section 2.

Smith moved to vote on the proposed revision, and Ben Stickle seconded the motion. The motion carried. Gordon conducted an anonymous vote using Zoom polls.

The revision to Article II Section 2 passed by unanimous vote.

## **Article IV Section 5 Subsection A:**

Current language: President: In the event the President is unable to continue the duties of the presidency, the President-Elect shall assume these responsibilities until such time as the President can reassume duties or until the end of the President's term, whichever comes first. A President-Elect who, due to the inability of the President to complete his or her term, has succeeded to the presidency shall automatically succeed to a full term as President. In the event the President shall not be able to complete his or her term of duty, the President-Elect shall assume responsibility for the position and a new President-Elect shall be elected by the Faculty Senate in accordance with these Bylaws.

Proposed language (revised language in italics): President: In the event the President is unable to continue the duties of the presidency, the President-Elect shall assume these responsibilities until such time as the President can reassume duties or until the end of the President's term, whichever comes first. *In the event of a President's inability to complete his or her term, the President-Elect shall have the option to succeed to the remainder of the term as President. If the President-Elect declines the partial term, the immediate past President shall be asked to serve out the remainder of the term. If both the President-Elect and the past President decline the appointment, then a general vote of the Faculty Senate shall be held to elect a new Interim President.* In the event the President shall not be able to complete his or her term of duty, *and* the President-Elect assumes responsibility for the position and a new President-Elect shall be elected by the Faculty Senate in accordance with these Bylaws.

Anderson called for discussion of the proposed revision to Article IV Section 5 Subsection A.

Smith moved to vote on the proposed revision, and Dianna Rust seconded the motion. The motion carried. Gordon conducted an anonymous vote using Zoom polls.

The revision to Article IV Section 5 Subsection A passed by unanimous vote.

## **Article IV Section 7**

Current language: The President shall designate a member of the Faculty Senate to serve as Parliamentarian at his/her discretion. The Parliamentarian will be charged with ensuring that

parliamentary procedure (in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Revised) are followed in the execution of Faculty Senate proceedings. The designated Parliamentarian shall serve a term of one year and may be replaced at any time by the Faculty Senate President for just reason (i.e., illness, resignation of elected seat).

Proposed language (revised language in italics): *Since the Parliamentarian requires knowledge of parliamentary procedure, candidates for the position must have served a minimum of one year on Faculty Senate.* The Parliamentarian will be charged with ensuring that parliamentary procedure (in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Revised) are followed in the execution of Faculty Senate proceedings. *The elected Parliamentarian shall serve a term of three to five years. New elections for the Parliamentarian will take place when the current Parliamentarian's term expires or decides to end their term.*

Anderson called for discussion of the proposed revision to Article IV Section 7.

Smith moved to vote on the proposed revision, and Vishwas Bedekar seconded the motion. The motion carried. Gordon conducted an anonymous vote using Zoom polls.

The revision to Article IV Section 7 passed by a vote of 35 to 1.

#### **Article IV Section 8**

Current language: The President, President-Elect, and Recording Secretary shall be non-voting officers, with the exception that the President shall vote in order to break tie votes. Once members of the Faculty Senate are elected to one of these three officer positions, the positions to which they were elected to the Senate shall be declared vacant and filled in accordance with Article II, Section 4 of these Bylaws before the next scheduled meeting of the Senate.

Proposed language (revised language in italics): The President, President-Elect, and *Parliamentarian* shall be non-voting officers, with the exception that the President shall vote in order to break tie votes. Once members of the Faculty Senate are elected to one of these three officer positions, the positions to which they were elected to the Senate shall be declared vacant and filled in accordance with Article II, Section 4 of these Bylaws before the next scheduled meeting of the Senate.

Anderson called for discussion of the proposed revision to Article IV Section 8.

Smith moved to vote on the proposed revision, and Rust seconded the motion. The motion carried. Gordon conducted an anonymous vote using Zoom polls.

The revision to Article IV Section 8 passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Article VII Section 2**

Current language: The members of the Steering Committee shall hold office for one year and no member of the Senate shall serve as a voting member of the Steering Committee for more than two consecutive years.

Proposed language (revised language in italics): The members of the Steering Committee shall hold office for one year and no member of the Senate shall serve as a voting member of the Steering Committee for more than *three* consecutive years.

Anderson called for discussion of the proposed revision to Article VII Section 2.

Smith moved to vote on the proposed revision, and Bedekar seconded the motion. The motion carried. Gordon conducted an anonymous vote using Zoom polls.

The revision to Article VII Section 2 passed by unanimous vote.

### **Article VII Section 5**

Current language: The Faculty Senate Steering Committee shall appoint an Election Committee consisting of one Senator from each college to provide the Senate with at least two nominees each for the offices of President-Elect and Recording Secretary. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Faculty Senate at its April meeting and at other times as dictated by vacated Faculty Senate officer positions. The Nominating Committee shall provide the Senate with at least two nominees for each office vacated.

Proposed language (revised language in italics): *A Nominating Committee consisting of all at-large senators will vet and provide the Senate with at least two nominees each for the offices of President-Elect, and Recording Secretary, and Parliamentarian.* The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Faculty Senate at its *February* meeting and at other times as dictated by vacated Faculty Senate officer positions. The Nominating Committee shall provide the Senate with at least two nominees for each office vacated.

Anderson called for discussion of the proposed revision to Article VII Section 5.

Smith moved to vote on the proposed revision, and Rust seconded the motion. The motion carried. Gordon conducted an anonymous vote using Zoom polls.

The revision to Article VII Section 5 passed by a vote of 34 to 1.

### **Article III Section 1**

Current language: The Faculty Senate of Middle Tennessee State University shall meet in regular session on the second Monday of September, October, November, December, February, March, April, and May and may meet during the summer session. The Steering Committee may adjust Senate meeting dates by up to fourteen days to allow for holidays and other circumstances which render rescheduling prudent

Proposed language (additional language in italics): The Faculty Senate of Middle Tennessee State University shall meet in regular session on the second Monday of September, October, November, December, February, March, April, and May and may meet during the summer session. *Meetings shall be available both through physical presence and synchronous remote participation.* The Steering Committee may adjust Senate meeting dates by up to fourteen days to allow for holidays and other circumstances which render rescheduling prudent

Anderson called for discussion of the proposed revision to Article III Section 1.

Senators discussed changing the bylaws to permit both physical and synchronous remote participation at Faculty Senate meetings and failed to reach consensus. Smith asked whether the Senate could postpone the vote on the proposed revision to Article III Section 1 and send it back to the Bylaws Revision Committee. Anderson informed the Senate that the Bylaws Revision Committee was preparing three additional proposed changes to the bylaws for the March session of the Faculty Senate. Kari Neely responded that, if this proposed revision were sent back to the Bylaws Revision Committee, senators needed to provide instruction to the Bylaws Revision Committee about what they wanted the Bylaws Revision Committee to do.

Smith moved to send the proposed revision to Article III Section 1 back to the Bylaws Revision Committee, and Stickle seconded the motion. By a vote of 7 in favor and 17 opposed, the motion failed.

Anderson asked whether senators wished to discuss the proposed revision further or hold a vote on the proposed revision at once. Senators continued to discuss the proposed revision.

Richey called the previous question.

Rachel Kirk moved to vote on the proposed revision to Article III Section 1, and Neely seconded the motion. The motion carried. Gordon conducted an anonymous vote using Zoom polls.

The revision to Article III Section 1 passed by a vote of 29 to 7.

Anderson stated that the remainder of the changes will be presented to the Steering Committee on 2/28 and to the full Senate on 3/14. After that, they will be sent out to University faculty and will become fully ratified by April.

Richey moved to adjourn the meeting, and Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM.

Documents distributed by email before the meeting:

Bylaws of the MTSU Faculty Senate

Summary of the Changes to the Bylaws

*Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Sutherland, Recording Secretary. Approved by the Faculty Senate on March 14, 2022.*