

Constitution of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS)

Article I: Name

The name of this Association shall be Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS).

Article II: Purposes

This Association shall have as its purposes:

- 1) To facilitate communication and cooperation between the various Faculty Senates and Councils of the State of Tennessee's public universities
- 2) To foster the role played by the Faculty in the shared governance of Tennessee's public universities
- 3) To represent the missions, accomplishments and needs of public universities to state agencies and to the general public of the State of Tennessee

Article III: Membership

This Association shall be composed of the Tennessee public university Faculty Senates and Faculty Councils that elect to become members.

Article IV: Meetings

General meetings of the Association shall be held twice annually, during the Fall and Spring academic semesters. The date of a meeting shall be fixed at the meeting immediately preceding it.

Additional meetings may be called with the approval of a majority of the entire cohort of voting representatives. In such instances, voting may occur by mail ballot or by electronic ballot.

Article V: Voting

Each member body shall be entitled to one vote. One person shall be elected by each member body as its voting representative. Each body shall also elect an alternate voting representative who shall participate in the discussions of the Association and who shall be empowered to vote in the voting representative's absence. In the event that neither the voting representative nor the alternate voting representative are able to attend a meeting, the secretary of the member body affected shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates the name of an individual authorized to vote on the body's behalf during that meeting.

Voting representatives and alternate voting representatives shall be current members or immediate past members of Tennessee public university Faculty Senates or Councils. An immediate past member of a Faculty Senate or Council is anyone who was a member of such a body at any time in the preceding two years.

The names of the voting representative and the alternate voting representative shall be certified in writing by the secretary of each member Faculty Senate or Faculty Council. This certification shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates.

Motions to be voted on at the general meetings shall be submitted to the member bodies at least thirty days before the general meetings of the Association. The following exception to the provision holds: at general meetings, voting representatives may authorize that motions be formally written, that they lie before the member bodies for thirty days, and that they be decided by the majority electronic vote or by the majority mail vote of the entire cohort of voting representatives. Routine and operational voting may occur without thirty days notice.

In the case of a tie vote, the President shall resolve the tie by casting the deciding vote.

Article VI: Officers

The officers of the Association shall be the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, and the Immediate Past-President. They shall be known collectively as the Executive Committee. The President and the President-Elect shall serve a one-year term, and the Secretary shall serve a two-year term. These officers shall be elected by the voting representatives of the Association's member bodies. Officers of the Association shall be current or immediate past members of these constituent bodies. The President and the President-Elect may not be the voting representatives or alternate voting representatives from their respective institutions.

The President of Tennessee University Faculty Senates shall:

- 1) Preside over general meetings of Tennessee University Faculty Senates and meetings of the Association's Executive Committee
- 2) Provide an agenda for all meetings to the membership
- 3) Report at general meetings on all business transacted by the Executive Committee
- 4) Act as the official spokesperson for Tennessee University Faculty Senates in all external communications
- 5) Serve as a liaison to state agencies, including the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The President-Elect shall assist the President in the performance of constitutional duties. The President-Elect shall become President immediately upon the expiration of the President's term.

The Secretary shall keep minutes of all general meetings of the Association, and of all meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Immediate Past-President of Tennessee University Faculty Senates shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Committee for a period of one year.

Vacancies on the Executive Committee may be filled on an ad interim basis by the Executive Committee. Such vacancies shall be filled by the voting representatives at the next general meeting of the Association.

Except under exceptional circumstances, the Presidency shall alternate between a faculty member from a University of Tennessee institution, and a faculty member from a Tennessee Board of Regents institution.

Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the entire cohort of voting representatives.

Article VII: Standing Committees and Ad hoc Committees

Tennessee University Faculty Senates may establish such committees as it deems advisable, and shall prescribe the duties of these committees. Committee chairs shall be elected by the voting representatives from among the voting representatives and alternate voting representatives. The term of office for Standing Committee Chairs shall be two years. Ad hoc Committee Chairs shall have their term of office specified at the time of their election. Committee members shall be elected from a list comprised of candidates proposed by the various Faculty Senates and Councils. The term of office for committee members shall be two years. Ad hoc committee members shall have their term of office specified at the time of their election.

Article VIII: Amendments to the Constitution

Any proposed amendment to the constitution shall require approval by a two-thirds majority of the entire cohort of voting representatives.

Article IX: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the most recent revision of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the present Constitution or with any special rules adopted by the Association.