## $\overline{\text { GW }}$ Faculty Senate

## Professional Ethics \& Academic Freedom Committee (PEAF)

This report by PEAF addresses the charge "Consider how FSEC can best contribute to supporting shared governance at the university and particularly to putting the Senate in the best position to work effectively with the new President. Consider whether any amendments to the FOP are necessary to support FSEC's effective functioning and/ or whether an elaboration of a consensus interpretation of these documents will suffice." Submitted to FSEC on April 1, 2024.

## The Role and Composition of the Executive Committee: PEAF report with recommendations

## I. BACKGROUND

Starting in February 2023, interim president Mark Wrighton reported to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) that the Board of Trustees (BoT) was considering and then decided to provide firearms to campus police and was considering modes of implementing this decision. President Wrighton informed FSEC that it was not to relay this report to the Senate. The reports that President Wrighton delivered to FSEC did not involve an emergency. One indication that this did not involve an emergency was that campus police were not armed for another eight months. Despite the situation not being an emergency, according to President Wrighton, members of FSEC provided advice and counsel on the reports from President Wrighton. On no occasion did FSEC report such actions to the Senate while the record does not make clear whether such comments were more than informal, nevertheless the administration treated such remarks as sufficient consultation. ${ }^{1}$

FSEC exceeded its authority under the Faculty Organization Plan (FOP) when it agreed to keep secrets from the Senate and its committees. In so doing, it denied shared governance to the faculty because those best informed on the issues, including those selected to oversee the issues of campus security serving on the Physical Facilities committee, were denied timely information and the opportunity to offer consultation in a timely manner. As a consequence, the committee and eventually the Senate were only able to take action once a policy that many faculty had strong, well-informed views about, was already in place. ${ }^{2}$ Such secrecy to which FSEC agreed, therefore, made it harder for the faculty to have a contemporaneous involvement in advising on and shaping university policies. As both the Senate and Assembly have underlined, when the Faculty or Senate are informed about policies only after the fact it is a violation of shared governance principles. ${ }^{3}$

[^0]The difficulty with FSEC receiving information in secret and advising is that FSEC is not a representative body, and:

- The large schools are underrepresented on FSEC;
- Divisions and colleges inside of large schools such as Corcoran are individually larger than schools which have FSEC representation;
- When the Senate was previously restructured, the logic for such restructuring in Assembly Resolution $12 / 1$ and SR $11 / 2$ was on the basis of many departments not having a member serving in the senate; ${ }^{4}$
- $2 / 3$ of the Columbian College of Arts \& Sciences (CCAS) (humanities + social sciences $=$ ca. 400 faculty) are rarely represented on FSEC;
- The non-clinical faculty in the School of Medicine \& Health Sciences (SMHS) are rarely represented on FSEC; and
- As FSEC is currently constituted, it underrepresents faculty who have direct contact with undergraduates. This under-representation may lead to FSEC not being fully informed on matters that affect undergraduates including such issues as arming campus security and university policies on protests.

As FSEC is not a representative body, the faculty and administration cannot be assured that FSEC speaks for the majority, plurality, and range of views of the faculty if it decides to take information in secret and/or offer counsel.

In light of questions about how FSEC should proceed with regards to confidential information, FSEC charged PEAF with considering the history of events and the governing documents.

## II. OBSERVATIONS.

## A. The governing documents of the faculty are the FOP and the Faculty Code.

The FOP specifies that the Assembly and the Senate as a whole represent the faculty. The Senate as a whole has the powers to (III.1):
(1) Formulate principles and objectives and find facts, so as to recommend policies to the President; and
(2) Provide the President and the Board of Trustees with advice and counsel on such matters as they may request.

The FOP also specifies in III.5.a that functions of the senate are delegated to committees in the following way: "There shall be three kinds of Senate Committees: the Executive Committee, standing committees, and special committees." The FOP further divides the Executive Committee (in III.5.b) from regular and special committees (in III.5.c). Each group has different powers and requirements.

[^1]
## B. The Executive Committee

1. Has the power to arrange the agenda (FOP III. 5.b.1) and to (FOP III. 5.b.2) nominate members and chairs of standing committees. The Executive Committee may also receive reports on all matters of concern to the faculty (FOP III.5.b.5). The Executive Committee may act on behalf of the senate in cases of emergency. (III.5.b.6) These are powers reserved to the Executive Committee and denied to the others.
2. With these powers come the requirements of the executive committee:
a. The FOP at III.5.b begins with a long paragraph that specifies what FSEC is and how it is composed. That Paragraph concludes with a clause which reads "The [Executive] Committee shall:" PEAF interprets "shall" as a binding requirement which specifies what FSEC must do in order to be in compliance with the FOP. Among the things that the executive committee shall do is (III.5.b.5) "arrange for distribution of reports it receives".
b. Notwithstanding past practice, we interpret FOP III.5.b. 5 to mean that reports are updates that are either formal or informal, oral or written.
c. As "providing counsel," "giving advice," "finding facts," and "making recommendations" are critical activities of the Senate as whole (as specified in FOP III.1) FOP III.5.b. 6 requires that advice, counsel, or recommendations made by FSEC should be done only in cases of emergency and that such actions (including recommendations, counsel, or advice, or comments) shall, without exception, be reported to the Senate for confirmation at the Senate's next regular meeting.
d. As the FOP and Faculty Code both empower and bind the FSEC, the Executive Committee may not ignore the governing documents of the faculty, even if members of the administration specifically make requests of FSEC that involve FSEC exceeding its authority.

## C. "Other committees" (i.e. regular, special, but not executive) as specified in FOP III.5.c: powers and requirements

1. FOP III.5.c "shall have power to inquire, hear, deliberate, advise, assist, and administer, and to receive and propose resolutions regarding all matters within the functions of the Senate set out in Section 1 of this Article." In other words, regular and special committees have the powers to " 1 . Formulate principles and objectives and find facts, so as to recommend policies to the President; and (2) Provide the President and the Board of Trustees with advice and counsel on such matters as they may request.
2. With this power of inquiring, hearing, advising, assisting, that is reserved to the regular and special committees, comes a requirement: "advice given and action taken [sic] by Senate committees shall be reported to the Senate annually, or as otherwise required by the Senate."

## D. Secrecy

1. Aside from topics explicitly mentioned in the faculty code (e.g. non-concurrence, nonconfidence measures for Deans) FSEC may not receive information that it does not pass on to the bodies that are deemed by the faculty to be competent. Per previous rulings the of

Parliamentarian, FSEC exceeded its authority in the spring of 2023 when it agreed to keep secrets from the senate and every committee.
2. Per FOP III.V.b.5, FSEC must arrange for distribution of formal and informal reports it receives to other groups that the faculty have determined are the bodies with relevant expertise. For instance, confidential information concerning finances must be forwarded by FSEC to the Fiscal Planning and Budgeting Committee.
3. The requirement that FSEC not hold reports secret, does not bind committees such as FP\&B which may itself receive and hold confidential information received from the CFO. No provisions of the FOP require that regular and special committees of the Senate "shall arrange for the distribution of reports it receives". Only FSEC is bound to distribute. The bottom line is that the Faculty Senate as a whole or its regular and special committees may receive and withhold confidential information. However, FSEC cannot. FSEC must refer information it receives to at least some other faculty body which may then hold such information confidential.
4. FSEC itself cannot hold information confidential for at least two reasons. 1. The FOP at III.5.b. 5 specifies that FSEC shall forward reports it receives and 2. FSEC is not a representative body. It does not represent faculty numbers and it does not represent faculty expertise as constituted on committees. For instance, generally only one member of FSEC attends meetings of, e.g., EP\&T, leaving the rest of FSEC not as well informed on matters to do with undergraduate education and thus ill-preparing FSEC as a whole to receive information or provide advice, especially in secret, on matters under the purview of EP\&T. A similar situation applies to the other senate committees and the matters under their purview.

## E. Observations regarding the "Statement of Principles of Shared Governance and Recommended Mechanisms to Strengthen Shared Governance at the George Washington University" [hereafter "Statement"]

1. This is not a governing document of the faculty. The Senate does not have the power on its own to create or ratify a governing document.
2. The Faculty Senate was not given the opportunity to amend the "Statement" and the Statement reflects the compromises made between faculty and the administration/trustees after months of lengthy negotiations and discussion. This document doesn't fully capture the analysis of shared governance produced by senate leadership.
3. The shared governance process was initiated not because the Faculty Senate or Assembly determined that the faculty governance documents needed updating, but rather in the wake of a major leadership crisis at the University, which required the Faculty Senate to conduct a rigorous poll of the faculty to determine the Assembly views, and to use such views to advise the Senate on its future action. ${ }^{5}$ Following the adoption of Shared Governance Principles, the Trustees have decided that they will meet in person only with FSEC. It does not imply that FSEC should agree to either receive confidential information

[^2]or that FSEC should exceed/overstep its authority and offer advice, counsel, or recommendation - powers that are reserved to the senate as a whole and to the regular, special committees.
4. There is a structural problem in the "Statement of Principles" in that, when the BoT meets with FSEC, it is meeting with a group of faculty who, though they represent each school, are otherwise unrepresented in multiple ways including:
a. Faculty who teach undergraduates are underrepresented in FSEC, denying the BoT access to hearing information on the undergraduate experience.
b. The diversity of faculty expertise across fields, especially in larger schools is underrepresented. Examples include, the social sciences and humanities have not been consistently represented in CCAS, and non-clinical faculty in SMHS have not been consistently represented in SMHS.
c. Faculty knowledge as constituted on senate committees is underrepresented in FSEC.
d. No member of FSEC is directly elected and therefore no member of FSEC can be relied on (or assumed) to speak for the faculty as a whole.
e. It is in the interest of faculty for the Board and administration to be able to be fully confident that when they speak to senate leadership, that leadership represents the full range of faculty knowledge and experience.

## III. RECOMMENDATIONS:

## A. FOP changes: Adopt Option 1. Possibly also adopt options 2 (a or b), 3, and/or 4

## OPTION 1

So that FSEC will be more representative of the faculty and so that the chair of FSEC may have more credibility as speaking for the faculty, the FOP could be revised so that the chair will be the President of the faculty. The President will be elected directly by members of the Faculty Assembly during the fall Assembly meeting. The President will serve a two-year term beginning at the start of the subsequent senate term (i.e., beginning the following May). The President may succeed themselves only once. Other members of FSEC could be chosen by the Senate. Any faculty member who has tenure may serve as Faculty president. The FOP at III. 3 and III.5.b would need to be adjusted accordingly to the amendment process specified in Article IV. ${ }^{6}$

1. A faculty president would be well positioned to claim to represent the faculty, and the vote of support from the Assembly would make their voice more influential with the administration and BOT.
2. At other universities, the faculty President by rule participates in major hiring decisions, reviews major policy changes, and advocates to the entire faculty on significant issues.

## OPTION 2

Recognizing that selective use of the SG "Statement of Principles" has led to a situation where the BoT is meeting with an unrepresentative group of faculty. The group meeting with the BoT does not represent the range of faculty fields, numbers of faculty, domains of expertise in the senate committees, or in experience with undergraduate concerns.

## OPTION 2a

The Statement should be adjusted so that the BoT meets with a group of faculty that is more representative of faculty. ${ }^{7}$ Recognizing the significance of undergraduate education and experience to revenues and the functioning of the university, the Senate may recommend that the Statement be amended in collaboration with the the BoT so that at least $50 \%$ of the group to visit the BOT on each occasion should have taught undergraduates in the previous 2 years. Implementation may be as follows.

1. If $50 \%$ of FSEC has not taught undergraduates in the preceding two years, then the group to be sent to visit the BoT shall include FSEC members plus a sufficient number of additional faculty who have taught undergraduates in the preceding two years so that the group as a whole is composed of $50 \%$ faculty who have direct experience in teaching undergraduates in the preceding two years.
${ }^{6}$ See Appendix 2.
${ }^{7}$ On page 4, the Statement suggests: We recommend that the Administration and Faculty Senate, should collaboratively identify additional key mechanisms, frequency, and methods for its communication and engagement with each other.
2. The composition of the additional faculty group shall be arranged based on distribution of courses and disciplines by undergraduate enrollment credits.
3. The group of additional faculty to visit with the BoT may be nominated by the Educational Policy and Technology Committee and then proposed by FSEC to the Senate for confirmation.

## OPTION 2b

If the Statement does not change so that a representative group of faculty meet the BOT, the composition of FSEC itself could change in a way that includes a mechanism for the BOT to meet a representative group of faculty. Possibilities for changing FSEC include one or more of the following:

1. Redefine FSEC so that the ratio of faculty in one school to the number of its FSEC representatives is no less than one $5^{\text {th }}$ of any other school's ratio.
2. Redefine FSEC so that there is one representative from each division or school even if several representatives share a Dean.
3. Adjust the FOP at III.5.b to specify that FSEC be composed not of one member from each school, but instead of committee chairs - chairs that had been nominated by FSEC per III.5.b. 2 and confirmed by the Senate.
4. Have FSEC be defined so that faculty have no less than 1 FSEC representative for each 200 tenured or tenure track faculty
5. Have FSEC be defined so that faculty have no less than 1 FSEC representative for each 300 regular faculty
6. Have FSEC defined so that representation on FSEC is $1 / 3$ of senate representatives, either rounding down or up in the same way across schools so that FSEC is no larger than 15.
7. If $50 \%$ of FSEC has not taught undergraduates in the preceding two years, then at the formation of FSEC expand its membership beyond one member per school so that FSEC as a whole is composed of $50 \%$ faculty who have direct and personal experience in teaching undergraduates in the preceding two years.

## OPTION 3

Amend the FOP at III.5.b by adding a clause \#7 which states: "The powers of the Senate to 'Formulate principles and objectives and find facts, so as to recommend policies to the President' are reserved to the Senate as a whole and to regular and special committees. These powers are denied to the Executive Committee except in cases of emergency."

## OPTION 4

Amend the FOP to allow recall: The Senate or Assembly may recall FSEC members, chairs and members of other committees, or Senators if $3 / 4$ th of the Senate present and voting or of half of the Assembly present and voting determine that members of FSEC or other committees have exceeded their authority or otherwise not faithfully adhered to the spirit and letter of the faculty's governing documents. Such recall actions may be initiated by resolution in the senate, in the assembly, or by petition to the senate of at least 15 members of the
faculty. In addition, colleges may recall one or more of their senate representatives by a vote held at a college faculty meeting and announced at least one week prior to such a meeting.

## B. Improving practices that will aid Senate flow but not require FOP changes:

1. Whenever a resolution is reported by a committee or signed by at least 8 senators, a copy of that resolution shall be shared by the Senate office with the entire Senate within 24 hours and posted to the Senate website as "future business of the Senate."
2. Agendas of FSEC meetings with a list of all topics, reports, and updates shall be created in advance of each meeting. The agendas shall be distributed to the Senate within 24 hours after the FSEC meeting.
3. Meetings of FSEC with the BoT shall include the delivery to the BoT of any such reports and/or resolutions prepared by the Senate or its regular and special committees that the Senate or commitees request be delivered.
4. FSEC recognizes its responsibility to be a conduit for information, as indicated in II.B.2.a and II.B.2.b of this document. FSEC shall therefore assess any written or oral incoming formal or informal reports for whether they fall within the scope of any of the existing committees and, if so, refer the report and/or communication to that/those committee(s). If the reports are not within the scope of an existing committee, FSEC will either propose expanding the scope of one or more standing committees OR will propose the formation of a special committee at the subsequent meeting of the Senate. Once such committee restructuring is complete, FSEC will forward the oral or written reports.

## APPENDIX 1

## A RESOLUTION ON SHARED GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO SIZE, COMPOSITION, AND QUALITY OF THE UNDERGRADUATE CLASS (20/9)

WHEREAS, the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) jointly issued a directive stating:
"The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process. On these matters the power of review or final decision lodged in the governing board or delegated by it to the president should be exercised adversely only in exceptional circumstances, and for reasons communicated to the faculty. It is desirable that the faculty should, following such communication, have opportunity for further consideration and further transmittal of its views to the president or board." (Section 5)
"With regard to student admissions, the faculty should have a meaningful role in establishing institutional policies, including the setting of standards for admission, and should be afforded opportunity for oversight of the entire admissions process" (Note 4)
"Such matters as major changes in the size or composition of the student body and the relative emphasis to be given to the various elements of the educational and research program should involve participation of governing board, administration, and faculty prior to final decision." (Section 2b);

WHEREAS, the Faculty Organization Plan, Article III, Section 1 (4) states that the Senate shall "be the Faculty agency to which the President initially presents information and which he consults concerning proposed changes in existing policies or promulgation of new policies";

WHEREAS, the Senate, and in particular its Educational Policy and Technology Committee, has in the past consistently been consulted and has contributed to the formulation of policy about the size, composition, and quality of the undergraduate student body;

WHEREAS, President LeBlanc announced on July 9, 2019, a plan to reduce undergraduate enrollment by $20 \%$ and to change the relative proportions of the student majors and therefore to alter the curricular program of the university ${ }^{9}$ without having previously consulted in sufficient detail_with the relevant Senate committees and the Senate as a whole and proceeded to implement the plans with the enrollment of the 2019/2020 class; and

[^3]WHEREAS, President LeBlanc stated repeatedly that changes to the undergraduate student body will not cause diversity to go down "one iota" ${ }^{10}$ and the chair of the Board of Trustees reaffirmed that diversity will not be impacted as a result of this plan ${ }^{411}$, while the Senate and its Committees have not yet received or been given the opportunity to evaluate any compelling evidence that these current diversity and academic quality standards can be maintained while simultaneously reducing the size of its student body and increasing STEM majors;

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

1) That the process of adoption and implementation of plans to reduce the size of the student body and to increase the ratio of STEM majors was inconsistent with established principles of shared governance;
2) That shared governance requires meaningful input and oversight by the Senate as a whole and by all relevant Senate Committees prior to implementation or announcement of major initiatives;
3) That the administration's and Board of Trustees' commitment to diversity is to be applauded;
4) That the Faculty Senate calls on the university to develop plans that raise academic excellence and that maintain or increase diversity and expand inclusion; and
5) That the Senate asks the administration to refrain from further implementing plans to reduce enrollment and increase STEM until after a) the financial implications of these plans are validated by the Senate; b) it submits a valid model under which academic quality and diversity are not diminished; and c) its plans are considered, debated, and accepted through recognized processes of shared governance.

Originally Submitted by Guillermo Orti, Daniel Schwartz, and Ioannis Eleftherianos
November 19, 2019
Revision Submitted by Guillermo Orti, Daniel Schwartz, and Ioannis Eleftherianos
December 28, 2019
Amendments to the Resolving Clauses Adopted by the Faculty Senate January 10, 2020
Amendments to the Whereas Clauses Proposed by Special Drafting Committee January 20, 2020
Adopted by the Faculty
Senate February 14, 2020

[^4]
## Appendix 2

## A RESOLUTION ON A FACULTY PRESIDENT

WHEREAS, Shared governance is the cornerstone of the George Washington University, and its Faculty Senate is committed to this role;

WHEREAS, Faculty Senators are important representatives of their respective schools, owing in large measure to their direct election and connections to constituents;

WHEREAS, Many faculty that do not serve on the Senate often do not know who represents them in meetings with the University Leadership and the Board of Trustees on sensitive and timely matters, limiting the effectiveness of the Senate as a conduit between Faculty and other elements of the University;

WHEREAS, Direct elections may have a number of benefit for faculty participation in shared governance, such as providing opportunities to vote in direct, university-wide elections and ensuring that faculty know who represents them in meetings with University Leadership ;

WHEREAS, Election by the university-wide Assembly may provide the faculty with a person with the highest level of possible authority to act as an advocate for the Faculty and for shared governance in the most credible possible way;

WHEREAS, Article IV of the Faculty Organization Plan states:
"Amendments to this University Faculty Organization Plan may be proposed to the Assembly by the President, by the Senate through petition to the President as Chairman of the Assembly, or by 100 of the faculty members of the Assembly. Voting on a proposed amendment by the Assembly may be at a regular or special meeting. For adoption of a proposed amendment by the Assembly, a favorable vote of either two-thirds of those voting, or a majority of the voting members of the Assembly, whichever is the lesser, shall be required. Amendments so adopted shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for its approval and shall become effective only when so approved."; and

## NOW THEREFORE THE FACULTY SENATE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

1. That the Faculty Organization Plan be amended as set forth on Exhibit A attached to this Resolution, conditional upon the adoption of such amendments by the Faculty Assembly;
2. That the President, as Chair of the Faculty Assembly, is petitioned to place on the agenda for the next meeting of the Faculty Assembly a resolution to adopt the amendments to the Faculty Organization Plan set forth on Exhibit A attached to this Resolution;
3. That, upon adoption by the Faculty Assembly, the President is requested to forward those amendments to the Faculty Organization Plan for final approval by the Board of Trustees, making any technical corrections necessary; and
4. That the Faculty Senate respectfully urges the Board of Trustees not to approve any changes to the Faculty Organization Plan that are different from the amendments adopted by the Faculty Assembly without further consultation with the Faculty Senate and concurrence by the Faculty Assembly in keeping with the University's unbroken tradition of collaborative shared governance.


#### Abstract

APPENDIX 2 Exhibit A THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY FACULTY ORGANIZATION PLAN


Art. III The Faculty Senate
SECTION 2. ORGANIZATION
(a) Membership
(1) The President shall be a member of the Senate ex officio, and he or another presiding officer may vote to break a tie vote.
(2) Persons who are otherwise eligible for election to and service in the Senate shall be members of the University and shall not be in a probationary status. Questions of eligibility for election and service shall be determined by the Senate.
(3) The faculty members of the Senate shall be elected by and from their faculties as follows: The Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, 11 seats; the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, 3 seats; the School of Engineering and Applied Science, 4 seats; The School of Business, 5 seats; the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, 5 seats; the Law School, 4 seats; the Elliott School of International Affairs, 3 seats; the School of Public Health and Health Services, 3 seats; and the School of Nursing, 2 seats. The faculty members eligible for election shall be professors, associate professors, or assistant professors in full- time service who have tenure as of the academic year succeeding the date of election. Vice presidents, assistant vice presidents, deans, associate deans, assistant deans, and other faculty members whose duties are primarily administrative in nature shall be ineligible for election as faculty members of the Senate. 2

Exemptions to the foregoing rule regarding eligibility for service as a faculty member of the Senate are provided for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, to the extent that, from that school only, Regular Faculty with non- tenure-track appointments shall be eligible to serve in the Faculty Senate, provided that such Regular Faculty shall have completed at least three years of full-time service to the University and shall have attained the rank of Associate Professor or higher, and provided further, that at least half of the faculty members of the Senate from the School of Medicine and Health shall be tenured faculty members.
(4) In addition, the College of Professional Studies shall elect two of its faculty members as Delegates. These Delegates shall not have the right to vote in meetings of the Faculty Senate but shall otherwise enjoy all responsibilities, rights, and privileges of regular Faculty Senate members. From this School, any regular faculty with a non-tenure-track appointment shall be eligible to serve in the Faculty Senate, provided that such Regular Faculty shall have completed at least three years of full-time service to the University and shall have attained the rank of Associate Professor or higher. Their terms of office shall be the same as that of regular members of the Senate, as described in (c). Their election shall follow the same rules as that of regular faculty members of the Senate, as described in Section 3.
(5) The administrative members of the Senate shall consist of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Registrar, and a number of officers of administration equal to the number of degreegranting colleges, schools, and divisions. Administrative members shall have the right to debate but not to make motions or vote. They shall be appointed by the President and shall serve until their successors shall be appointed, but not less than one semester unless their service is terminated by separation from the University.

## (6) The President of the Faculty, unless they are also an elected senator, shall have the right to

 debate and make motions but not to vote. If the President of the Faculty is also an elected senator, they may debate, make motions, and vote.
## SECTION 3. ELECTION OF FACULTY MEMBERS

The election of faculty members of the Senate shall be held subject to the following requirements but otherwise pursuant to procedures determined by the faculty members eligible to vote in the school or group involved:
(1) The nominating procedure shall permit nominations from the floor or by petition in addition to any other method adopted by the faculty of the school or group involved, and shall, unless otherwise determined at or prior to the election meeting by two-thirds vote of such faculty, require at least two nominees for each Senate seat to be filled.
(2) Voting shall be by secret ballot.
(3) Only members of the faculty in full-time service shall be eligible to vote.
(4) The elections shall be held at meetings called by the academic deans of the respective schools prior to March 15 of each year. A quorum shall be that number which is determined by the faculty of the individual school, college, or division as the quorum required for its regular faculty meetings.
(5) In the event that a vacancy occurs in the Senate membership or a member is on leave of absence or otherwise unable to participate for any period, the faculty of the school or group involved shall be entitled to elect another representative for the remainder of the term or pro tempore for the period of absence involved.
(6) Election of the Faculty President:
A. The term of the faculty president shall be two years.
B. Elections will be held every other year.
C. The faculty president may immediately succeed themselves only once.
D. The school appointment of the faculty president shall not be the same for more than two consecutive terms.
E. Nominations, requiring at least 20 signatures of assembly members, shall be made by September 15 and via submission to the Senate office in the year on which an election is held.
F. Only tenured members of the faculty in full-time service shall be eligible to serve as Faculty President
G. Faculty members whose duties are primarily administrative in nature shall be ineligible for election as Faculty President.
H. The faculty senate executive committee shall determine whether nominated individuals are eligible to serve.
I. Election of the president shall be majority of those voting at a fall assembly; in the case there is no majority, run-off elections will be held at the same assembly.
J. The term of the president shall begin at the May meeting of the Senate subsequent to the Assembly meeting in which they were elected. The term of the preceding President shall continue until the term of next president begins.

## SECTION 5. COMMITTEES

## (a) General

There shall be three kinds of Senate Committees: the Executive Committee, standing committees, and special committees. The Executive Committee and all standing committees shall meet as directed by the Senate or as determined necessary by the committees themselves or their chairs, but not less than once a year. Committee meetings shall be conducted according to orderly procedure, records of deliberations shall be kept, and reports shall be made to the Senate as often as required, but at least annually. Copies of all formal reports shall be filed with the Senate Office and shall be available for inspection by members of the Assembly and the administrative officers of the University. The President of the Senate will serve as chair of the executive committee for a term of two years, other Amembers of the Executive Committee and standing committees shall be elected for a term not exceeding one year. No member of the Executive Committee shall immediately succeed themselves more than twice except the chair of the executive committee who shall immediately succeed themselves no more than once. The Senate shall establish such procedures for temporary replacement of members of the Executive Committee as shall seem necessary to assure that the Executive Committee would not be prevented from acting effectively in emergencies because of inability to assemble a quorum of its membership.

## (b) The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of nine faculty members of the Senate, andone CPS Delegate of the Senate, the President of the Faculty, and the President ex officio. The following ten schools shall have one representative each: the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the Elliott School of International Affairs, the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, the Law School, the School of Business, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the School of Nursing, the College of Professional Studies, and the School of Public Health Services. Any faculty member of the Senate shall be eligible to be elected to the Executive Committee. The Faculty President shall be Chair of the Executive Committee. At the first meeting of each Senate session, the first agenda item shall be the election of the other members of the a new Executive Committee. At that first meeting, the Chairman shall first be elected by the Senate and; the Senate shall alse elect the ethernine elective members of the Executive Committee, subject to the restriction that no two of the nine members of the Executive Committee elected by the Senate shall have been elected to the Senate by the same school or faculty group. If at any time the Faculty President and Chair of the Executive Committee or any other voting member of the Executive Committee is unable to serve temporarily or indefinitely, the Executive Committee shall elect a replacement or replacements to serve until the next regular meeting of the Senate, at which time the Senate shall elect a replacement or replacements to serve for the remainder of the term of the Executive Committee or pro tempore for the period of absence involved. The Committee shall:


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Minutes of the April 2023 Senate meeting
    2 SR 24/5, October 20, 2023
    ${ }^{3}$ For instance in regards the 20/30 plan, SR 20/9, attached as appendix 1 . Also item 5 in the report of the Special Senate Committee on the Assembly Petition. In a vote of 189 to 0 at its Spring 2020 meeting, the Assembly approved the Senate's conclusions about the connection between contemporaneous consultation of the Senate and shared governance.

[^1]:    ${ }^{4}$ See whereas clauses 5 and 6 in SR 11/2: https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.gwu.edu/dist/0/196/files/2023/03/11-2-final-adopted.pdf

[^2]:    ${ }^{5}$ SR 21/17

[^3]:    ${ }^{8}$ https://www.aaup.org/report/statement-government-colleges-and-universities
    9 https://gwtoday.gwu.edu/message-president-leblanc-strategic-planning-process

[^4]:    ${ }^{10}$ https://gwtoday.gwu.edu/faculty-president-leblanc-discuss-strategic-plan-objectives-process
    ${ }^{11}$ Faculty Senate Minutes for October 11, 2019 Regular meeting

