

## UNIVERSITY SENATE CONSTITUTION

### **ARTICLE I. GENERAL POWERS DELEGATED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS (Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the Faculty Senate and the University Senate)**

Consistent with actions and policies by the regents of the University of Minnesota, all matters relating to the educational and administrative affairs of the University are herein committed to the president, the Faculty Senate, the University Senate, and the several faculties.

### **ARTICLE II. PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY – POSITION AND AUTHORITY (Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the Faculty Senate and the University Senate)**

The president of the University shall be the representative to external constituencies of the regents, the University Senate, the Faculty Senate, the faculties, and the students, and shall be the chief executive officer of the University. The president shall have general administrative authority over University affairs. The president may suspend action taken by any senate, council, committee, campus assembly, college faculty, or student constituency and ask for a reconsideration of such action. If the president and a senate, council, committee, campus assembly, college faculty, or student constituency do not reach agreement on the action, the question may be appealed to the regents by the president, or by any senate, council, committee, campus assembly, college faculty, or student constituency. The president, as chief executive officer of the University, shall have final authority to make budgetary recommendations to the regents. However, in view of the necessary weighing of educational policies and objectives involved, the president shall consult with and ask for the recommendations of other academic officers and the Faculty Consultative Committee and the Senate Consultative Committee concerning such budgetary recommendations as materially affect the University as a whole.

### **ARTICLE III. THE UNIVERSITY SENATE (Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the University Senate)**

#### **1. Powers**

- a. The University Senate shall have general legislative authority over administrative matters concerning more than one campus or the University as a whole, but not over the internal affairs of a single campus, institute, college, or school, except where these materially affect the interests of the University as a whole or the interests of other campuses, institutes, colleges, or schools. It may also offer advice to the President on budget, educational policy, and research issues.
- b. The University Senate shall have the power to recognize campus assemblies as official campus legislative and policy-making bodies and, upon so doing, such organizations shall have all powers permitted the campus assembly in this Constitution and Bylaws.
- c. The University Senate may delegate authority and responsibility to campus assemblies in administrative matters concerning only one campus of the University. Each campus shall determine its own assembly and shall adopt its own constitution and bylaws, consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the University Senate.

d. Nothing in this constitution bars the Senate Consultative Committee, the Faculty Consultative Committee, the Student Consultative Committee, the P&A Consultative Committee, or the Civil Service Consultative Committee from discussing and expressing views on any matter they deem appropriate, without regard to any view expressed by any of the other bodies.

e. In case of disagreement between or among the Senate Consultative Committee, Faculty Consultative Committee, the Student Consultative Committee, the P&A Consultative Committee, or the Civil Service Consultative Committee on a matter, each body may present its own views to the president.

f. Nothing in this constitution bars the University Senate, the Faculty Senate, the Student Senate, the P&A Consultative Committee, or the Civil Service Consultative Committee from discussing and expressing views on any matter it deems appropriate, without regard to any view expressed by any of the other bodies.

g. In case of disagreement between or among the University Senate, Faculty Senate, the Student Senate, the P&A Senate, or the Civil Service Senate on a matter, each body may present its own views to the president.

## **2. Membership**

a. The University Senate shall be composed of the following voting members:

(1) the president of the University;

(2) the vice chair of the University Senate;

(3) the 10 elected faculty members of the Faculty Consultative Committee, the 10 elected student members of the Student Consultative Committee, the 2 P&A Consultative Committee members of the Senate Consultative Committee, the 2 Civil Service Consultative Committee members of the Senate Consultative Committee, and the past chair of the Faculty Consultative Committee, who shall serve as ex officio voting members;

(4) the 155 members of the Faculty Senate;

(5) the 50 members of the Student Senate;

(6) 23 elected academic professional and administrative staff members; and

(7) 23 elected civil service staff members.

Qualified academic staff members elected to the Faculty Senate will not be counted as part of the 23 academic staff to be elected to the University Senate.

b. Each member of the University Senate shall represent the University as a whole. The deans, vice presidents, chancellors, provosts, the University Librarian, and the General Counsel shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members. Student body presidents of the Twin Cities, Duluth, Morris, and Crookston student bodies shall, if not otherwise elected, serve as ex officio nonvoting members.

## **3. University Senate Officers**

The officers of the University Senate shall be the chair, the vice chair, the clerk, and the parliamentarian. The president of the University shall be the chair and shall preside at meetings of the University Senate. The vice chair and the clerk shall be faculty members eligible to be elected to the Faculty Senate. The selection and duties of the officers shall be set forth in the bylaws.

#### **4. University Senate Meetings – Call – Quorum**

a. The University Senate shall hold regular meetings, at least twice in each semester of the academic year, at a time and place determined by the Senate Consultative Committee and approved by the president.

b. Special meetings of the University Senate may be held upon the call of the president, the Senate Consultative Committee, or upon written request of ten members of the University Senate. Senators shall be given notice of any special session by the clerk of the Senate at the earliest possible date and not less than two days before the meeting. Only subjects specifically listed on the proposed agenda for any special session may be considered at that meeting.

c. At any regular or special meeting of the University Senate, a majority of its membership (not including vacant seats) shall constitute a quorum.

d. Any faculty member, student, academic staff member, or civil service staff member eligible to vote for senators may be admitted to University Senate meetings and shall be entitled to speak at the discretion of the University Senate. Only elected University Senate members (or their designated alternates), Senate Consultative Committee members, and, in the case of a tie, the presiding officer, shall be entitled to vote. Ex officio members of the University Senate may speak and make motions but are not entitled to vote.

#### **5. University Senate Agenda and Minutes**

a. The agenda and minutes of each University Senate meeting shall be distributed in the manner specified in the Rules. Matters under Senate jurisdiction, including proposed amendments to this Constitution or Bylaws, may be submitted by any committee of the Senate or any Senate member.

b. Committees and Senate members shall submit items for action to the clerk of the Senate at least two weeks before the University Senate meeting.

#### **6. Twin Cities Delegation**

The Twin Cities members of the University Senate constitute the Twin Cities Delegation [TC Delegation]. The University Senate will refer to the TC Delegation any matters that pertain only to the Twin Cities campus. Committees that deal only with matters that pertain to the Twin Cities campus will report to the TC Delegation. The TC Delegation will meet as needed to conduct business at the call of the President, the Senate Consultative Committee, or upon written request of ten members of the TC Delegation. The officers of the University Senate will serve as the officers of the TC Delegation, and all procedures and rules established in the constitution, bylaws, and rules for the University Senate will apply to the TC Delegation as appropriate. If questions arise, the Senate Consultative Committee will determine the application of the constitution, bylaws, and rules to the Twin Cities Delegation.

#### **7. Faculty and Staff Delegation**

The faculty and staff who are members of the University Senate constitute the Faculty and Staff Delegation [F&S Delegation]. The University Senate may refer to the F&S Delegation any matters that pertain only to the faculty and staff in their capacity as employees of the University. The F&S Delegation will meet as needed to conduct business at the call of the President, the Senate Consultative Committee, or upon written request of ten members of the F&S Delegation. The officers of the University Senate will serve as the officers of the F&S Delegation, and all procedures and rules established in the constitution, bylaws, and rules for the University Senate will apply to the F&S Delegation as appropriate. If questions arise, the Senate Consultative Committee will determine the application of the constitution, bylaws, and rules to the F&S Delegation. In those instances when graduate/professional students who have University appointments are affected by matters that come before the F&S Delegation, the chair of the Senate Consultative Committee will ensure that graduate-student concerns are heard when an item is brought to the F&S Delegation.

## **8. Committees of the University Senate**

The University Senate may establish standing committees and may also create special committees. Membership on all University Senate committees and procedures for electing or appointing members are described in the Bylaws. Committees may appoint subcommittees. The Committee on Committees shall serve as a resource for subcommittee nominations and shall, at the request of the parent committee, appoint members to standing subcommittees.