

UNIVERSITY SENATE RULES

ARTICLE I. RULES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE (Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the University Senate)

1. Organization

The University Senate may determine its own organization, create committees whose membership need not be limited to members of the University Senate, and adopt procedural Rules for the conduct of its business.

2. Agenda and Minutes

The Senate Consultative Committee shall plan the agenda for any meeting of the University Senate, for which it serves as the executive and steering committee. The agenda shall be prepared and distributed by the Senate Office. The agenda consists of items submitted for University Senate consideration by the Faculty Senate, the Student Senate, a campus assembly, the Faculty Consultative Committee, the Student Consultative Committee, the P&A Consultative Committee, the Civil Service Consultative Committee, by any committee of the University Senate or campus assemblies, or by any member of the Senate. At the discretion of the Senate Consultative Committee, the Senate Office may be instructed to include additional items on the agenda for any regular meeting of the University Senate. Items for the docket must be delivered to the Senate Office no later than two weeks prior to the date of each meeting.

The minutes of the meetings of the University Senate shall be available to all faculty, academic staff, civil service staff, and students. The actions of Senate meetings shall be available in like manner.

3. Amendments to the Rules

Amendments to the University Senate Rules shall be made by a majority vote of the members of the University Senate present and voting at any meeting of the University Senate. However, the Rules cannot be amended to contravene either the Constitution or the Bylaws. If such a situation presents itself, a Constitutional or Bylaws amendment motion must be undertaken. Rules of Order (*Robert's Rules Newly Revised*) may be suspended by a two-thirds majority vote.

4. Seating

The meeting room shall provide a clear and definite area reserved for senators, and no non-senator (except authorized alternates, the Clerk and parliamentarian, and Senate staff) shall have access to this area without explicit permission from the chair. Senators and authorized alternates shall be identified in order to permit their seating to ensure accurate voting.

5. Recognition and Participation

- a. In deliberations, priority of recognition shall be given to senators over non-senators; speakers who have not spoken over those who have; alternation of pro and con on a specific issue.
- b. Any senator, upon recognition from the chair, may yield time in debate to a non-senator.

c. In the event that a senator has yielded time to a non-senator, both shall be considered to have spoken.

d. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes each time they are recognized.

e. The member of a committee presenting an item on the docket who is not a member of the University Senate shall be extended all privileges associated with participation. These include making motions in areas related to the committee report. Such a person shall not be extended the privilege of voting.

f. Members of committees of the University Senate who are not members of the University Senate shall have the privilege of speaking on reports of their committees before the University Senate.

g. The usual Rules of germaneness and decorum shall apply to both senators and non-senators.

6. Meeting Procedures

a. The time limits specified on the agenda are the maximum time for debate or discussion. A motion to extend the limits of debate may be proposed on any agenda item.

b. The University Senate may not consider any amendment to a motion appearing in the printed docket unless the person making the motion has submitted the proposed amendment in writing to the Senate Office at least 48 hours before the meeting. There are two exceptions to this rule. First, the person making the motion on the docket may accept, on the floor of the University Senate, amendments they consider to be friendly. Second, the University Senate may consider such an amendment if the majority of senators present vote to do so. Before any vote is taken to consider an amendment on the floor, the person offering it must present it in writing (or, if connected to the meeting electronically, must provide specific wording) to the Senate Office.

c. An item of new business presented at a meeting of the University Senate by an individual member shall be referred to the Senate Consultative Committee for consideration and presentation at the next regular meeting of the University Senate; but such an item of business may be considered and voted on at the meeting at which it is introduced by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the University Senate present and voting on a motion for immediate consideration (not debatable). An item on the agenda for information may be sent back to the committee reporting it, for presentation as an item for action at a later meeting, by a simple majority vote of the members of the University Senate present and voting; it may be considered for action at the meeting at which it is reported for information by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the University Senate present and voting on a proposal for immediate consideration as an item for action.

d. The motion to table shall be debatable.

e. At each meeting of the University Senate when the President is present, Questions to the President shall be an item on the agenda.

f. In the case of a tie vote, the President shall be entitled to vote.

ARTICLE II. RULES FOR COMMITTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE (Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the University Senate)

1. Ex Officio Members of University Senate Committees

Ex officio representation is accorded because of, or by virtue of, a specified office. An ex officio member has rights of full participation except voting privileges unless otherwise indicated. Ex officio administrative members shall be appointed from each of the offices as specified in the following provisions and shall have the authority to designate someone to attend meetings in their place. Committee chairs who serve ex officio on other committees may designate a representative from their committees to attend in their place. The University Senate vice chair may not designate an alternative representative to the Senate Consultative Committee.

- **All-University Honors**-- Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost; Office of the President (three representatives, including one from Alumni Relations and one from the Office of Development); Office of the Chancellor – Duluth; Office of the Chancellor - Crookston

- **Disabilities Issues**-- Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost (the University ADA coordinator); Office of the Vice President for Equity and Diversity (Disability Resource Center)

- **Equity, Access, and Diversity**-- Office of the Vice President for Equity and Diversity (two representatives, including one from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action); representative from the Women's Faculty Cabinet

- **Finance and Planning**--reports to both the University Senate and the Faculty Senate; ex officio members are listed under Faculty Senate committees

- **Information Technologies**-- Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost (two representatives including one from the Office of eLearning); Chief Information Officer; University Librarian, Twin Cities Campus; Chair of the Library Committee

- **Intercollegiate Athletics**--Director of Intercollegiate Athletics; Director of Academic Center for Student-Athletes; Director of Athletic Compliance

- **Library**-- Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost; University Librarian, Twin Cities campus; Director of Library Services, Crookston campus; Director of Libraries, Duluth campus; Library Director, Morris campus; Director of the Law Library, Twin Cities Campus; Librarian, Rochester Campus; Chair of the Information Technologies Committee

- **Senate Consultative**--Vice chair of the University Senate (voting); past chair of the Faculty Consultative Committee (voting if not otherwise a voting member); Chair of the Finance and Planning Committee; Chair of the Educational Policy Committee; elected representative from the Duluth faculty eligible to vote in Senate elections

- **Social Concerns**--Office of the Vice President for Budget and Finance (Office of Investments and Banking); Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost (Office of Student Affairs); Office of the Vice President for Equity and Diversity (Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action)

- **Student Academic Integrity**-- Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost (two representatives, including the Director of the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity)

- Student Behavior-- Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost (Director of the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity)

2. Terms of Membership, Chairing of Committees, and Removal of Members for Absences

a. Non-student appointments to committees of the University Senate shall be made for terms of three years, with appointments so adjusted that the terms of approximately one third of the members expire each year. Faculty and academic staff who hold a University position carrying as any part of its title President, vice president, chancellor, provost, executive director, dean, counsel, non-faculty attorney, or chief of staff at a collegiate or central administrative level may not serve as a voting member of a University Senate committee, nor may the University Librarian.

b. Student appointments to committees of the University Senate shall be made for terms of two years. Student members of committees must be registered for at least six credits for each semester in the academic year. Graduate students who have completed course work and are not required to maintain continuous registration during interim periods of study in preparation for written and oral examinations must be certified by the individual department director of graduate studies.

c. Terms of committee service begin July 1 and terminate June 30. No non-student member is eligible to serve more than two consecutive full three-year terms on any one committee, and shall be eligible for reappointment only after a one-year interval of nonmembership on that committee. No student member is eligible to serve more than two consecutive two-year terms on any one committee. No committee member is eligible to serve on more than two committees of the University Senate, the Faculty Senate, or the Student Senate at a time. These rotation procedures and limitations do not apply to ex officio representatives.

d. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions, faculty, academic professionals, and civil service staff appointed to the four-year terms of membership on the Finance and Planning Committee shall be eligible to serve two consecutive four-year terms, for a total of eight years.

e. Except where specified, the chair of each committee of the University Senate is appointed from the committee membership by the Senate Committee on Committees. Chair appointments are for one-year terms, but chairs may be reappointed. An individual may chair only one committee of the University Senate, the Faculty Senate, or the Student Senate at a time. Terms of chairs begin July 1 and terminate June 30.

f. (1) A non-student member of a committee of the University Senate shall forfeit membership if absent for three consecutive meetings of the committee unless excused by the chair of the committee. A student member of a committee of the University Senate shall forfeit membership if absent for two meetings of the committee unless excused by the chair of the committee. A member of a committee (whether appointed or elected) of the University Senate will be considered absent if the member does not attend a meeting for which notification was given, subject to provisions (i) - (iii) of this section (g). A letter of forfeiture from the chair of Committee on Committees will be sent. A member whose membership has been forfeited may appeal to the appropriate appointing authority for reinstatement.

(i) Committee members who have official class teaching responsibilities, class conflicts (students), medical issues, or other serious and uncontrollable factors that prevent their attendance at committee meetings for up to a semester will be considered excused. If

circumstances will prevent someone from attending meetings for more than a semester, the person should be asked to consider resigning and be appointed at a future time when commitments would not preclude participation.

(ii) This section (g) applies to committee members who miss any three consecutive meetings (non-student members) or two consecutive meetings (students), whether within one academic year or spanning more than one academic year. Summer meetings of a committee do not count in tallying consecutive absences from meetings.

(iii). In those instances when a committee member makes arrangements to attend a meeting by teleconference or other technological means, and the necessary technology fails to work, that committee member will not be considered to be absent from the meeting.

(2) Individuals who are going on leave may wish to take a leave of absence from their committee but resume committee participation upon their return. In that case, the individuals need not be permanently replaced on a committee. Those individuals will be asked to identify someone to serve in their place, preferably from their own department, while they are on leave. Such a nomination must be approved by the Committee on Committees. In the event the individual was unable to find an interim replacement, the Committee on Committees will do so.

3. Leave Policy

If a committee member plans to be on leave from the University or is, for any reason, absent from the University for more than one year, a new committee member shall be appointed to complete the term remaining. Members on leave for one year or less during the first two years of a three-year term shall be replaced by temporary appointment. Members absent in the final year of a term shall be replaced for the term remaining. Replacement procedures shall follow appointment procedures.

4. Committee Support and Service

Support for Senate committees shall be provided by the Senate Office.

5. Support of University Governance

Department chairs, deans, and faculties should recognize participation in University governance by faculty, academic staff, and civil service staff as an important and integral part of the individual's work load and supply necessary assistance and support for these activities.

Similarly, faculty and administration should recognize student participation in University governance as an important and integral part of the participant's total University experience.

6. Procedures for Committees of the University Senate

a. Parliamentary authority for committees of the University Senate shall be *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, provided these *Rules* are not in conflict with the Senate Constitution or Bylaws. These *Rules* may be suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting. Rules for Committees of the University Senate may be suspended by simple majority vote of those present and voting.

b. A quorum shall be a majority of the members (not including vacant seats).

c. Committee members may participate and vote in committee meetings through an electronic connection.

d. The chair or a committee member who voted on the prevailing side, was absent, abstained, or did not vote may move, by electronic communication, that an action taken by the committee be reconsidered. The motion to reconsider, including a proposed disposition, must be made to or by the chair within two business days after the meeting was adjourned. Committee members must vote, by electronic communication, within two business days from the time the motion to reconsider was distributed. The number of votes cast on the motion must meet or exceed the requirement for a quorum; if that number is achieved, a two-thirds majority of those voting is needed for approval of the motion to reconsider.

e. A committee chair may exercise discretion to close all or part of a meeting to administrative ex officio members of the committee in order to permit candid discussion of matters that include, but are not limited to, personnel or administrative organization matters. The reason for the closed session should be included on the agenda for the meeting.