

Resolution Eliminating Term Limits for Faculty Senators
3.23.23

Whereas the Faculty Senate Bylaws currently have the following rules in relation to length of membership,

Article II, Section 6: The term of office for the academic unit's member and alternate shall be two years, from the start of the organizational meeting of the Faculty Senate until the end of the regularly scheduled April meeting of the Faculty Senate held in the second year thereafter. *No member shall serve more than eight years in succession or four terms in succession.*

[*Nota bene:* The bylaws were not properly updated on the website to reflect the term limit of ten years that was approved by the required supermajority of the Faculty Senate].

Whereas it may happen that one and only one member of an academic unit has an interest in Faculty Senate service or is good at Faculty Senate work (this may especially be the case in smaller academic units);

Whereas it may happen that following the current prescriptions in Article II, Section 6 may lead to the dismissal of the only member of an academic unit interested in Faculty Senate service;

Whereas the circumstance just described would be, at least in part, regrettable, given the loss of a devoted, capable, experienced, and enthusiastic Faculty Senator;

Whereas it takes time to learn the issues and processes of the Faculty Senate, and eliminating term limits allows people to develop ideas and see them through to implementation and furthermore helps to preserve institutional memory.

Whereas fears about overlong Faculty Senate service are alleviated by the fact that voting for Faculty Senators within academic units is and will remain on a 2-year rolling basis, and no one is assured of being elected in any given election,

Whereas it is true that incumbents have an advantage, their wisdom, experience, and understanding of the Senate's processes rightly make that advantage a legitimate reason for their department's continued support through reelection (an advantage that may have the most impact on the election of senators who represent the part-time faculty, adding a component of equity to this issue),

Be it now resolved that Article II, Section 6, of the Faculty Senate Bylaws shall henceforth read,

Article II, Section 6: The term of office for the academic unit's member shall be two years, from the start of the organizational meeting of the Faculty Senate until the end of the regularly scheduled April meeting of the Faculty Senate held in the second year thereafter. There shall be no bar to a department electing the same senator repeatedly every two years for as long as the senator wishes to serve.

[In order to pass a change to the Senate Bylaws, a $\frac{2}{3}$ supermajority is needed.]