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Faculty Senate Constitution, 1976-1977, vol 1

UNM Faculty Senate

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Draft of Proposed Changes in the Faculty Constitution
Ad Hoc Committee on the Faculty Senate
FACULTY SENATE PROPOSAL
Revision of 3/14/74, as amended 9/23/75, 10/14/75, and 11/20/75.

FACULTY CONSTITUTION

The Faculty of the University of New Mexico, through this constitution, provides for the organization and procedures by which and through which it may function, within the range of its authority and responsibility, as prescribed by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico and the delegation of powers and responsibilities thereunder by the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico. This constitution is the ultimate authority on all questions involving exercise of Faculty rights and responsibilities.

There are hereby created the University Faculty and the Faculty Senate.

Article I. The University Faculty

- Sec. 1 (a) Membership: (No change)
(b) (No change except as reorganization may alter the numbers and titles of vice presidencies)
(c) (No change)
- Sec. 2 Responsibilities: (No change)
- Sec. 3 (a) Organization: (No change)
(b) The Vice Chairman: (No change)
- Sec. 4 (a) Procedure: (No change)
(b) (In first sentence, change the words "Faculty Policy Committee" to "Committee of Five".)
- Sec. 5 (a) Meetings: (Change the words "monthly during the school year, exclusive of the summer session" to "at least three times per academic year."
(b) (No change)
(c) (No change)
(d) A committee of five voting members of the general faculty who are not members of the Faculty Senate shall be elected at the first general faculty meeting of each academic year to prepare, in conjunction with the Secretary of the University, the agenda of faculty meetings; to oversee elections, including referenda; to recommend adjustments, improvements and refinements in the faculty organizational structure; and to represent the general faculty to the Senate.

(Repeal Sec. 6 entirely and substitute the following:)

- Sec. 6 (a) Faculty Senate: There is created the Faculty Senate to which the responsibilities of the University Faculty set forth in Sec. 2 are hereby delegated, with the specific exceptions of (1) the responsibility of initiating and/or approving changes in the constitution, (2) the responsibility of approving

candidates for academic degrees, (3) the responsibilities assigned by Sec. 7 (a) to the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, and (4) the right of the Faculty to hold special meetings as described in Sec. 8. All actions under this delegation are subject to the rights of review and referendum reserved to the University Faculty by Sec. 6 (h).

Sec. 6 (b) The Faculty Senate shall be composed as follows:

- (i) There shall be one senator from each school or college* with an academic faculty, plus one senator for each twenty-five full-time faculty members or major fraction thereof of each such school or college, elected by the members of that faculty. For purposes of calculating the number of full-time faculty members the actual number of full-time contracted faculty will be used. Budgeted positions not filled and part-time faculty will not be counted. The proportion of junior and senior faculty elected as senators shall be as close as possible to the proportion of junior and senior faculty in that school or college. ("junior" refers to the ranks of instructor and assistant professor; "senior" refers to associate and full professors).
- (ii) A full-time faculty member holding appointments in more than one school or college* shall select his constituent school or college* for purposes of representation in and election to the Faculty Senate by filing a written notice of such selection with the Secretary of the University no later than the first day of the spring semester of each election year.
- (iii) There shall be twenty senators elected at large, no more than seven of whom may be members of the faculty of any one school or college*.
- (iv) ~~The provost, all associate provosts and~~ ~~the~~ vice presidents of the university and all deans of schools and colleges* shall be ex officio, nonvoting members of the Faculty Senate; except that the president shall appoint two ~~vice presidents~~ to voting membership and the deans are authorized to elect three of their members to voting membership in the Senate.

among the provost-associate
provost-vice president group

- (v) The President of the University, the Secretary of the University, and the Presidents of the Associated Students (ASUNM) and the Graduate Student Association (GSA) shall be ex-officio members of the Faculty Senate without vote.

Sec. 6 (c) Eligibility, nominations and elections:

- (i) All members of the Voting Faculty as identified in Article I, Sec. 1 (b), with the exception of ex-officio members, shall be eligible for election as voting members of the Faculty Senate, except that vice presidents of the University and all deans of schools and colleges* shall be elected to voting membership only as specified in Sec. 6 (b) (iv) above, and except that the president of the University is not eligible for such membership. (See Sec. 6 (b) (v)).
- (ii) Procedures for the nomination of individuals eligible for election to the Faculty Senate under the provisions of Sec. 6 (b) (i) and Sec. 6 (c) (i) above shall be determined by the faculty members of each school or college*, which procedures and any subsequent changes therein shall be filed in writing with the Secretary of the University; provided, however, that academic deans and vice presidents shall not be eligible. Elections of school and college* senators shall be accomplished and the certified results shall be filed with the Secretary of the University no later than the last working day of the sixth (6th) week of the spring semester as it appears in the official calendar of the University.
- (iii) Nominations of individuals consenting to stand for election to the Faculty Senate under the provisions of Sec. 6 (b) (iii) above shall be made by written petition signed by at least five members of the Voting Faculty and submitted to the Secretary of the University no later than the last working day of the ninth (9th) week of the spring semester as it appears in the official calendar of the University. Academic deans, vice presidents, and other ex-officio members of the Voting Faculty, shall not be eligible for nomination.

* and/or the General Libraries

- (iv) Elections of all members of the Faculty Senate shall be held biennially in the spring semester of the academic year, and shall be conducted by preferential balloting. Balloting by the Voting Faculty for those members of the Faculty Senate to be elected at large shall be conducted by mail, and no ballot shall be valid that is not received by the Secretary of the University by the close of the tenth (10th) working day following the official date upon which ballots are mailed to members of the Voting Faculty by the Secretary of the University, which date shall appear on the ballot.
- (v) The Secretary shall notify all Faculty in writing of the results of the election of senators from all schools and colleges* within five (5) working days of the deadline specified in 6 (c) (ii). Final election results shall be reported by the Secretary of the University in writing to each member of the Voting Faculty prior to the last day of the spring semester as it appears in the official calendar of the University.
- (vi) Voting members of the Faculty Senate shall be elected for terms of two years and shall take office on July 1 of the same year of their election. No one shall serve more than four consecutive years as a voting member. Before regaining eligibility following four consecutive years of service, an interim of at least two years must elapse.
- (vii) Schools and colleges* shall provide their own procedures for filling vacancies in their delegations, which procedures and any subsequent changes in them shall be filed in writing with the Secretary of the University. When the positions of Senator-at-Large become vacant for any reason, the Committee of Five shall make arrangements with the Secretary of the University for holding special elections to fill such vacancies.

Sec. 6 (d) Organization and Procedures: The members of the Faculty Senate shall determine how the Senate shall be organized and what procedures shall be established to carry out the responsibilities delegated to it by

* and/or the General Libraries

Sec. 6 (a) above; provided, however, that the presiding officer(s) of the Senate shall be elected by the voting membership from among their number, and provided that the Secretary of the University shall serve as the Secretary of the Senate.

- Sec. 6 (e) Meetings: The Faculty Senate shall meet no less frequently than once per month during the regular sessions of the academic year exclusive of the summer session. Members of the University Faculty may observe the proceedings in a space provided for them. Individual faculty members may address the Senate by prior written request to the presiding officer or at the request of any senator. The Senate may provide reasonable limitations as deemed necessary.
- (f) Attendance at Meetings: The Faculty Senate shall establish reasonable requirements for attendance at regularly scheduled meetings of the Senate and shall remove from office any member failing to meet those requirements.
- (g) Committees: All standing committees of the University Faculty excepting the Faculty Policy Committee which is hereby expressly abolished and the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee which is expressly preserved in Secs. 7 (a) and (b) below, shall become committees of the Senate and responsible to it. In order to discharge the responsibilities delegated to it by this Constitution, the Faculty Senate is empowered to create, abolish, merge, or otherwise redefine functions of standing committees of the Faculty Senate, except the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. Each standing committee under the jurisdiction of the Faculty Senate as provided for in this subsection shall have at least one senator as member. Any member of the University Faculty is eligible for membership on standing or special committees. No member shall serve on more than two standing committees at a time.
- (h) Review and Referendum: The University Faculty reserves the right of review over actions of the Faculty Senate in that the Senate is the agent of the University Faculty and exercises all authority by way of delegation. All actions of the Faculty Senate shall be reported in writing

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to the Voting Faculty regularly and within ten (10) working days of such action. Additionally, the approved minutes of the Faculty Senate shall be distributed to the University Faculty within three working days after the meeting at which they are approved.

- (1) All actions taken and so reported shall be subject to review and reconsideration by the University Faculty upon written petition made to the President of the University by not less than five percent (5%) of the members of the Voting Faculty, provided such petition is received by the President no later than one month after the Senate action is taken. Senate action shall become effective after one month unless the President receives a valid petition within this period.
- (11) The president shall convoke the University Faculty within ten (10) working days following receipt of a valid petition. The agenda of such a faculty meeting shall be limited to debate on the petitioned matter(s) and the faculty may vote to have the Faculty Senate reconsider the action(s) involved, which reconsideration must be undertaken no later than the next regular meeting of the Faculty Senate.
- (111) If the Faculty Senate reaffirms the questioned and referred action(s), the question shall then be submitted to the entire Voting Faculty by mail referendum within ten (10) working days of the Faculty Senate's action of reaffirmation. If fifty per cent (50%) of the Voting Faculty cast ballots, and if a simple majority of those voting disapprove of the Senate's action(s), the Senate shall be overruled. Ballots to be valid must be received by the Secretary of the University within ten (10) working days from the official date upon which the ballots were mailed.

Sec. 7 (a) (Same as present Sec. 6 (d))

(b) (Same as present Sec. 6 (e))

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Sec. 8 By written petition to the President of 5% of the Voting Faculty, issues not raised by the Faculty Senate may be placed on the agenda of a special faculty meeting, debated, and submitted to a written ballot of the Voting Faculty for majority decision.

Article II. College and Departmental Organization (No change)

Article III. The Administration (No change)

Article IV. General

Sec. 1 (No change)

Sec. 2 (No change)

Sec. 3 (Superseded by new Article I, and therefore expressly repealed.)

Sec. 4 (No change except to renumber as "Sec. 3.")