

BYLAWS
of the
SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Article I Authorization

- Section 1.1 Acknowledging the principle of faculty self-governance and recognizing the critical role that the faculty performs in the internal affairs of the institution, the Faculty Senate is established by the University Assembly under Article IV of the Constitution of Shepherd University.
- Section 1.2 The rules contained in the current edition of the Shepherd Faculty Senate bylaws shall govern the Faculty Senate in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are consistent with the Shepherd University Constitution, *Robert's Rules of Order*, and any special rules of order that the Faculty Senate may adopt.

Article II Constituency and Membership

- Section 2.1 The Faculty Senate constituency includes all Shepherd Assembly members who are issued teaching contracts.
- Section 2.2 The membership of the Faculty Senate includes one faculty representative elected by majority vote from each administratively recognized department/school, each administratively recognized college will elect by majority vote an equal number of at-large faculty representatives, the faculty representative to the Advisory Council of Faculty elected by the Assembly each odd year, and one representative of the library faculty. The officers of the Faculty Senate shall be the President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.
- Section 2.3 Names of voting Senators shall appear on an official Faculty Senate Roster. College Deans are ineligible for membership in the Senate. Senators shall be elected during April of each even-numbered year, their two-year Senate appointment effective upon election.
- Section 2.4 A Senator who is unable to continue or complete a term of office will be replaced by a special election held within that Senator's constituency. The faculty member so elected will serve the remainder of the departing Senator's term.
- Section 2.5 A Senator may be removed only by a majority vote of that Senator's constituency, and the decision must be communicated in writing to the Faculty Senate President.
- Section 2.6 Sabbatical leaves
- a. A Senator granted sabbatical leave during the term of office must be replaced by a special election conducted by that Senator's constituency.
 - b. Should the chair of a permanent committee be awarded a sabbatical leave, the Senate shall hold an election to choose a new chairperson.
 - c. In the event that the sitting Senate President, Secretary, or Parliamentarian is awarded sabbatical leave, that office is vacated, and a new election shall be held.

Article III Functions

Section 3.1 Meeting in open session, the Faculty Senate provides an opportunity for faculty to express their concerns, formulate policy, forward proposals to the University administration, and review policies developed by the University administration on matters pertaining to the following:

- a. instruction, research, service, and students;
- b. requirements for the granting of degrees;
- c. curricula requirements for general education;
- d. additions and deletions of courses and programs;
- e. students' admission, selection, and retention standards;
- f. professional development including criteria and faculty selection for sabbaticals and leaves of absence;
- g. academic freedom and tenure; and
- h. faculty evaluation for tenure, promotion, and merit pay.

Section 3.2 The Faculty Senate establishes and communicates to the administration various faculty resolutions pertaining to the following:

- a. development of libraries, laboratories, computer facilities, telecommunications, and other aids to instruction, research, and experimentation;
- b. faculty salaries, retirement, fringe benefits, teaching loads;
- c. other academic and professional affairs of interest to the University community.

Section 3.3 The Faculty Senate is the conduit for providing faculty representation for University administrative vacancies. Upon request, the Faculty Senate recommends faculty representatives to serve and participate in the selection process of various University administrative officers.

Section 3.4 Resolutions

- a. All motions requiring action, including a response, shall be made in the form of a resolution. A resolution must contain a statement as to how the policy recommendation is to be directed and who shall be the recipients.
- b. All approved Faculty Senate resolutions shall be transmitted by the Senate President, in written form and in a timely manner, to Senators, to the appropriate University Vice President, to the University President, or to any other agent of the University so identified in the resolution. The Senate President shall also prepare and attach an explanatory memorandum specifying an appropriate action or response that the Faculty Senate's resolution intends to achieve.
- c. If the resolution and memorandum is addressed to the Vice President or other agent of the University, a written response will be made within sixty (60) days of receipt.
- d. If the response from the Vice President or other agents of the University is not satisfactory to the Faculty Senate, the Senate may then, by resolution, instruct the Faculty Senate President to request in writing that the action or response sought by the Faculty Senate be directly resolved by the University President.

- e. The University President will respond in writing within sixty (60) days to any such request.
- f. If the resolution and memorandum are addressed to the University President, a written response shall be received by the Senate President within sixty (60) days of receipt.
- g. The agent or agents of the University, or a designee or designees to whom the Senate Resolution is addressed, may initiate discussions with the Senate President prior to providing the Senate with a written response.
- h. Any written response to an approved Senate resolution, received by the Senate President, shall be communicated to Senators.

Article IV Senate Officers

Section 4.1 The officers of the Faculty Senate shall be the President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.

Section 4.2 President

- a. Members of the Faculty Senate shall elect a president for a two-year term. The Senate President may serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- b. The President presides over meetings of the Faculty Senate. Should the President be unable to preside over a Faculty Senate session, the Parliamentarian shall preside in the President's absence.
- c. The President shall refer agenda items to appropriate committees or sub-committees with concurrence of the membership.
- d. The President shall be a voting member of the Faculty Senate.

Section 4.3 Secretary

- a. At the end of the Senate year and by majority vote of those present, the Faculty Senate elects a Secretary from among its voting membership for a term of one year.
- b. The Secretary shall record and keep minutes of all meetings of the Faculty Senate.
- c. The Secretary shall maintain a Web archive of Faculty Senate meeting minutes accessible to all members of the University Assembly.

Section 4.4 Parliamentarian

- a. The Parliamentarian shall be appointed from the voting membership of the Faculty Senate by the Faculty Senate President and approved by the Faculty Senate for a one-year term.
- b. As a voting member, the Parliamentarian shall advise the presiding officer and Senators on parliamentary procedure during the course of any Faculty Senate meeting.
- c. The Parliamentarian shall prepare, distribute, and be the repository of the current official Faculty Senate membership roster and the bylaws.
- d. The Parliamentarian shall conduct all Faculty Senate elections.
- e. In the absence of the Senate President, the Parliamentarian shall preside over a Faculty Senate session and shall designate a Parliamentarian pro tem.

Section 4.5 Faculty Senate officers may be removed only by a 2/3rds majority of the Faculty Senate membership roster.

Article V Meetings

Section 5.1 The regular meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be held every first and third Monday at 3:10 p.m. during the academic year when classes are in session.

Section 5.2 Two-thirds of the Faculty Senate membership constitutes a quorum.

Section 5.3 The Faculty Senate meetings are open and public. Visitors are asked to sit in the “visitor section.”

Section 5.4 The Faculty Senate may, by two-thirds vote and in conformity with the provisions of the state law on open governmental meetings (West Virginia Code, Chapter 6, Article 9-A), enter into executive session limited to Faculty Senate voting membership.

Section 5.5 The discussion of issues before the Faculty Senate is normally limited to Faculty Senate members. Only with the prior permission of the presiding officer can non-voting faculty and other agents of the University be recognized as guests and permitted to engage in Faculty Senate deliberations.

Section 5.6 A member of the University community may place items on the Faculty Senate agenda by informing the Faculty Senate President four academic class days prior to the session.

Section 5.7 The Faculty Senate President assembles the agenda and distributes it to the University faculty prior to each Faculty Senate session.

Section 5.8 Following each Faculty Senate session, the Senate Secretary or President distributes the minutes to the Faculty Senate membership. After Faculty Senate approval, the Secretary makes the minutes available to the University Assembly membership as indicated in Article 4.3c.

Section 5.9 Voting Procedures:

a. Only voting Senators may propose motions, resolutions, and amendments.

b. Voting may be by voice, by show of hands, or by secret ballot at the request of any Senator.

Section 5.10 Special meetings may be called by the Faculty Senate President at the request of at least five Faculty Senate members or by resolution of the Faculty Senate.

Section 5.11 The conduct of the Faculty Senate meetings shall be governed by the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order. Modifications to existing Senate Rules must be by a 2/3rds majority of the Faculty Senate membership roster.

Article VI Faculty Senate Committees

Section 6.1 The chairperson or designee of any committee created under the provisions of the Shepherd University Constitution or by the Faculty Senate shall, in any matter germane to its jurisdiction, have authority for recommending policy adoptions and for reviewing and reporting established policies to the Faculty Senate.

Section 6.2 The Shepherd University Assembly establishes four permanent committees that report directly to the Faculty Senate. At the first meeting of the academic year, the Faculty Senate elects chairs from among its own membership for the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the Admissions and Credits Committee. The Chairs of the Core Curriculum Committee and the Interdisciplinary Curricular Committee will be elected by the voting members of those committees. Each chair's tenure is one full year.

- a. **The Admissions and Credits Committee** formulates admission and credit policies and supervises the enforcement of approved policies adopted by the Faculty Senate. The schedule of meetings and membership of the committee are detailed in the Shepherd University Constitution.
- b. **The Curriculum and Instruction Committee** considers changes in courses and curricula programs that have been forwarded to the committee by the various Colleges, by the Professional Education Unit Council, or by the Core Curriculum Committee. Policies that are passed by at least a 2/3-majority vote in committee shall be forwarded directly to the Provost. Other policies shall be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for further action. The schedule of meetings and membership of the committee are detailed in the Shepherd University Constitution.
- c. **The Core Curriculum Committee** considers and initiates proposals for course and programmatic change to the Core Curriculum. Changes to the curriculum that are passed by 2/3-majority vote in committee shall be forwarded to the appropriate body. Changes that increase or decrease the total number or distribution of hours require a majority vote of all University full-time faculty; the Committee Chair, the Senate's Parliamentarian, and the Registrar will supervise the vote. The schedule of meetings and membership of the committee are detailed in the Shepherd University Constitution.
- d. **The Interdisciplinary Curricular Committee** considers changes to interdisciplinary courses and curricula programs, taking the place of a college in the approval process. Policies that are passed by at least a 2/3-majority vote in committee shall be forwarded directly to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee. Membership of the committee is detailed in the Shepherd University Constitution. The committee does not meet unless it receives proposed curricular changes. .

Section 6.3 The Faculty Senate establishes additional permanent committees that report directly to it or appoints members to serve as liaisons to existing university committees. These permanent committees and liaisons continue until terminated by the Faculty Senate. At the last meeting of the academic year, the Faculty Senate elects, from its membership, committee chairs for all permanent committees, except the Honors Board and the four standing committees. A chair's tenure is one full calendar year.

- a. **The Honors Advisory Board** advises the Honors Director about the administration and development of the University Honors Program. The Board's standard membership includes one faculty representative elected from each School, two students of each class rank elected from the current Honors students, and one representative from the Residence Life Office. Voting ex officio members include current Shepherd faculty who were past Honors Directors, who may serve at their convenience. Student terms of office are one academic year; other members have no term limits. When the position of Honors Director becomes vacant, the Board will serve as the search committee to find a new Director, limiting for this purpose the number of student representatives serving on the Board to two, chosen by the current student Board members from their number. One of the faculty School representatives serving on the Board will act as Chair of the search committee. The Board's choice of a candidate is forwarded to the Provost for approval, and the Director of the Honors Program subsequently reports to the Provost. The Honors Director provides at

least one report per semester to the Senate. The fall semester report shall be submitted prior to the first meeting in September, and the spring semester report shall be submitted prior to the first meeting in April.

- b. **The Library Liaison** –The Faculty Senate representative from the library faculty will serve as the Faculty Senate's Library Liaison. The Liaison will act as an intermediary between the university library and the Faculty Senate to ensure that the needs of library users are met, and to keep the Faculty Senate informed of key issues and concerns related to library operations. The Liaison will, when requested to do so and no less than annually, report to the Senate and convey the Faculty Senate's recommendations and requests to the library staff.
- c. **The Professional Development, Faculty Salary, and Welfare Committee** develops, assesses, and coordinates policies regarding sabbatical leaves and other matters of professional development. Membership includes two voting faculty representatives from each School, serving staggered two-year terms, and the chair. The committee assumes the following responsibilities:
 - i. collects and disseminates data regarding professional opportunities such as fellowships, grants, and stipends;
 - ii. researches issues concerning salary, fringe benefits, and general faculty welfare;
 - iii. reviews applications for sabbatical leaves and other proposals for research, writing, continuing education, and similar activities;
 - iv. forwards policy proposals to the Faculty Senate; and
 - v. in those cases where the committee is asked to react to specific applications by faculty, the committee shall submit confidential written statements directly to the Provost.
- d. **The Scholarship and Awards Committee** devises the criteria and appropriate ceremonies for the citation of McMurren Scholars, develops appropriate methods for recognizing outstanding academic scholarship and manages the Faculty Scholarship Fund, which is awarded to dependents of faculty members attending Shepherd. Membership includes two voting faculty representatives from each College, serving a two-year term, a voting chair, and three non-voting members including the Provost, the Foundation Executive Vice-President, and a representative from the McMurren Scholars Association.
- e. **The Senate Bylaws Committee** shall meet as required to review the bylaws and to make recommendations to the Senate regarding amendments to those bylaws. Membership includes the Senate Parliamentarian, who shall chair the committee, the Senate President, the Senate Secretary, and two additional Senators, elected by the Senate, at the end of each academic year.
- f. **The Faculty Research Forum Steering Committee** oversees the Faculty Research Forum. The committee membership will consist of one member elected from the Faculty Senate and one faculty member elected from each of the three colleges. The Coordinator of Lifelong Learning will be a voting ex officio member of the committee. The committee will elect one of its members to be chair. The term for the faculty members of the committee shall be two years.

- Section 6.4 By resolution the Faculty Senate shall establish special committees as it deems necessary. A resolution establishing a special committee shall describe the jurisdiction of the committee and designate a reporting schedule for it. A special committee expires at the end of the Senate year in which it was established, unless renewed by the Faculty Senate. A committee not specifically designated as a permanent committee shall be designated as a special committee.
- Section 6.5 Senate committees may create *ad hoc* committees, whose membership may include any full-time Shepherd University faculty member. The chair of the *ad hoc* committee shall be a member of the permanent Senate committee that has created the *ad hoc committee*.
- Section 6.6 Committees established by the Shepherd University Constitution or by the Faculty Senate are subject to Faculty Senate oversight and review.

Article VII Amendments

- Section 7.1 An amendment to the bylaws of the Shepherd University Faculty Senate may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the Faculty Senate at any regular meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been circulated among the Senators at the previous regular meeting.
- Section 7.2 Adopted amendments shall be incorporated in the appropriate “Article and Section” upon the next printing of these bylaws.

The Faculty Senate first approved the bylaws on Monday 03 May 1993. The bylaws were subsequently amended and approved by the Faculty Senate on Monday 06 October 1997, on Monday 04 March 2002, on February 16, 2004, on April 19, 2004, on September 18, 2006, on April 21, 2008, on March 30, 2009, on September 28, 2010, on April 28, 2011, on February 06, 2012, on October 06, 2014, on September 21, 2015, on March 6, 2017, on April 14, 2017, on December 3, 2018, on January 13, 2020, on September 21, 2020, on October 18, 2021, on October 21, 2024, February 2, 2026.