The Faculty Senate Bylaws committee recommends the following changes to the Bylaws be voted on as separate issues in the April meeting:

Item 1: Convert the Core Curriculum Council and Legislative Affairs Committee to standing committee status rather than ad-hoc status. This will include adding these two committees to the list of standing committees (Ch2, A. 1) and adding the following descriptions:

K. The Core Curriculum Council

1. Jurisdiction

This committee shall establish requirements for, and recommend to the Senate courses to be included in the core curriculum to satisfy:


b. The University graduation requirement for International and Cultural Diversity.

2. The committee shall also establish criteria for evaluation and review, and to recommend to the Senate renewal or non-renewal of existing courses on a regular basis.

3. The committee shall establish and implement methods for assessing the success of the core curriculum in meeting Coordinating Board and SACS standards.

4. Members shall be appointed by the Speaker, annually, with the advice of the Executive Committee and the consent of the Senate. Representatives for the Dean of Undergraduate Programs and of the Office of Institutional Assessment shall serve as non-voting, ex-officio members.

L. The Legislative Affairs Committee:

1. Jurisdiction

This committee shall annually review and report to the Senate proposed legislation that may impact the educational process or employee benefits and working conditions. The committee may meet with local legislators to promote or discuss potential legislation.

2. Members shall be appointed by the Speaker, annually, with the advice of the Executive Committee and the consent of the Senate. The Texas A&M Vice President for Governmental Affairs and the Vice President for Federal and Institutional Affairs or representatives from those offices shall be ex-officio members.

Basis for change: these committees have been created and functioned as ad hoc committees for years without a basic description of duties. Defining them as standing committees recognizes their continuous role in serving the Senate.
**Item 2:** Designate the Dean of Faculties as a nonvoting Ex Officio member of the Executive Committee (Ch II, B. 1. a.)

Basis: It has been a standard practice, at least for the last two Deans to attend a part of the Executive Committee meetings; they provide expertise on University rules and operations. The Dean of Faculties is also listed as an Ex Officio member of the Senate.

**Item 3:** Change the selection procedure for electing standing committee members for the Election and Bylaws committees and Committee on Committees, each of which include one member from each unit to say that “The Senators from each unit shall elect one member from that caucus to serve in this position” or in the case of the Committee on Committees, to say “The Committee on Committees shall consist of one Senator from each unit, the Speaker and the Speaker elect. The Senators from each unit shall, elect one member from that caucus to serve in this position, normally the caucus leader.

These changes would replace the current wording: “The Senators from each unit shall nominate one or more candidates. Within the full Senate, each Senator may vote for no more than one nominee for each unit. The unit nominee receiving a plurality wins. In the case of ties, the decision shall be promptly determined by lot.”

Basis: this would align the Bylaws with the process that has actually been used to populate these committees, apparently since the inception of the Senate. In the case of the Committee on Committees, adding the Speaker Elect to the Committee will provide flexibility for scheduling since the Speaker is defined as Chair of that committee.

**Item 4:** Edit the first sentence in the duties of the Election committee to include the words Executive and members (shown in red in the following) The Election Committee shall conduct elections of the Senate, of Senate officers, and of Senate Executive Committee members, consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.

Basis: perhaps not essential, but clarifies those committees that are filled by elections if # 3 passes.

**Item 5:** Add the Parliamentarian as a non-voting Ex Officio member of the Bylaws committee.

Basis: In the event the Parliamentarian is not already a member of this committee, the expertise of a parliamentary expert is especially useful for interpreting or changing bylaws.

**Item 6:** Add a member of the University Staff Council as a non-voting Ex Officio member of the Personnel and Welfare Committee.

Basis: Personnel and Welfare Committee deals with many issues that are of direct interest to The University Staff Council, which originated only in 2007. Adding a non-voting member of that committee to Personnel and Welfare would help coordinate efforts to address those common issues. That Council has requested that a representative be invited to the P&W meetings.
Item 7: Remove the Bookstore Advisory Committee from the list of Reporting Committees

Basis: This committee has not met for several years, possibly not since Barnes and Noble took over the management of the bookstore. If issues arise, appointment of an ad hoc committee could be as or more effective than continuing the current committee.

Item 8: Change the International Affairs “subcommittee” into a regular reporting committee.

Basis: International activities, including study abroad, the Qatar campus, support services for foreign graduate students, post-docs and faculty are genuine interests and concerns of our Faculty and administration. The Senate has had a “sub-committee” on international affairs since at least 1978, but seldom issues specific charges to that committee. Designing and populating it as a reporting committee including members based on administrative position and with specified reporting duties would strengthen the value of this committee.

Item 9: Change the last sentence of the description of reporting committees to read
The term “off-campus academic unit” shall refer to officially designated branch campuses, rather than to that part of the Galveston Campus that is not part of the College of Geosciences.

Basis: Another case of changing the bylaws to reflect current actualities.

Item 10: Change the section on the emeritus status committee to read as below:

(1) Membership shall be composed of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost, Ex Officio, plus one tenured faculty member from each academic college, off-campus academic unit, and the Library. Faculty members shall be nominated by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, after consultation with the college caucuses, and shall be approved by the Faculty Senate.

(2) The Committee shall: (1) monitor the files to assure that all eligible candidates are considered for emeritus status; and (2) review all favorable and unfavorable recommendations and forward its recommendations to the Executive Vice President and Provost. The committee, through its chair, shall communicate in writing to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate policy and procedural matters associated with the review of nominees for emeritus status.

Basis: Those who have served on this committee have expressed the feeling that reviewing every one of the requests for emeritus status that are supported by their department and college is an onerous chore that takes too much time. By changing the rule to have this committee review only cases where there is dispute will enhance the importance of committee recommendations and make it easier to populate the committee.

Item 11: Change the Rules and Regulations committee membership to include 7 rather than 6 student members, at least 2 of whom (rather than 1) are graduate students.

Basis: This will match the bylaws with the structure of the committee as it is currently constituted. (at the request of that committee)
*Item 12:* in Ch 4 part C dealing with mid-term replacement of Senators, add the clarifying statement. “In that election, a candidate will be elected for the remaining years of the original term.”

*Basis:* Making this clarification may avoid the problem we have had in having the terms of approximately 1/3rd of the Senators in each electoral unit expire in each election.

*Item 13:* In Ch 7 art D dealing with apportionment, add the clarifying statement “or 1% of the total number of faculty if greater than 2400”.

*Basis:* This statement will provide clarification to match the change made to the constitution to account for more than 2400 faculty.

*Item 14:* Other editing suggestions.

Graduate Council: change “Full Member” of the Graduate Faculty to “Member”, since the term full is no longer used in defining member status.

Honors Program Advisory Committee: Change the phrases “Director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships (OHPAS)” to “Director of the Office of Honors Programs” which is now the name of that office.