

ATTACHMENT E Proposed Constitutional Amendments

(Redlined version followed by Pros/Cons Presentation)

Note: All proposed amendments implicitly include allowance for renumbering, as necessary, if adopted.

----- Begin Consent Agenda -----

The following proposals are considered to be relatively non-controversial and have been combined into a "consent agenda." If there are no objections, these proposals will be voted on as a unit. Are there any proposals in this group that any Senator wishes to remove for discussion prior to a vote?

Proposal 7. II.D.3. Elections of senators shall be held annually in ~~April~~the spring. Procedures for voting will be established by the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Proposal 9a. The Speaker--Elect will be elected annually from the Faculty Senate membership.
Proposal 9b. II.E.2.a. An Executive Committee shall be elected by majority vote from within the Faculty Senate and shall have no ~~less~~fewer than five members nor more than ten percent of the total membership of the Faculty Senate,

Proposal 12. II.H. Reapportionment of the Senate shall take place in 2020 and every three-five years thereafter for the following Senate session. If a new electoral unit is established between reapportionment cycles, a special reapportionment shall be conducted. Reapportionment shall return to its regular cycle following this special reapportionment.

----- End of "consent agenda" ----- [Committee agreed by consensus to move forward]

Proposal 1. II.A.2. Electoral units shall be the University Libraries and the academic colleges, including the faculty at ~~the Galveston and Qatar campuses~~ remote locations that report academically to the Provost at Texas A&M University. **NOT MOVING FORWARD.**

~~Proposal 2. II.A.4.c. The College of Medicine shall have two representatives from the clinical faculty of the College of Medicine. The College of Medicine shall otherwise be apportioned as above for their non-clinical faculty.~~

[Delete in its entirety; proposal includes renumbering of following sections]

[Committee agreed by a vote of 5-3 to move proposal 2 forward]

Proposal 3. II.B. Membership Definition of Faculty

For purposes of the Faculty Senate, ~~individuals eligible for election shall be all~~ faculty shall be defined as those persons employed by Texas A&M University

(1) whose appointment was approved by the Provost of Texas A&M University,

(2) whose faculty appointment at TAMU is the person's primary long-term position, and

(3) whose ~~is employment~~ at TAMU ~~with is~~ an annual FTE of at least 0.75. ~~Other academic appointees who receive full time salary from funds appropriated as teaching or library salaries shall also be counted as faculty.~~

In the case of questioned status under this provision, the decision of the full Faculty Senate shall be final. [Committee agreed by a vote of 10-0 to move proposals 3-5 forward]

Proposal 3. II.B. Definition of Faculty [clean version]

For purposes of the Faculty Senate,

faculty shall be defined as those persons employed by Texas A&M University

(1) whose appointment was approved by the Provost of Texas A&M University,

(2) whose faculty appointment at TAMU is the person's primary long-term position, and

(3) whose employment at TAMU is an annual FTE of at least 0.75.

In the case of questioned status under this provision, the decision of the full Faculty Senate shall be final.

Proposal 4. II.C.4. Any faculty member, as defined in II.B above, is eligible for election to the Faculty Senate.

Proposal 5. II.D.1. All faculty members, as defined in II.B above, are eligible to vote, but shall vote in only one electoral unit.

Proposal 6. II.D.2. Senators shall be elected within their respective electoral units ~~by a place system,~~ by majority vote, and by secret ballot. [Committee agreed by consensus to move forward]

Proposal 8. II.E.2.a. An Executive Committee shall be elected ~~by majority vote~~ from within the Faculty Senate and shall have no less than five members nor more than ten percent of the total membership of the Faculty Senate. The at-large members shall be those who receive the highest plurality of votes from among the candidates, with no more than two members of the Executive Committee from any one electoral unit. [Committee agreed by consensus to move forward]

Proposal 10. II.E.2.a. An Executive Committee shall be elected by majority vote from within the Faculty Senate and shall have no less than five members nor more than ten percent of the total membership of the Faculty Senate, with no more than ~~two one at-large~~ members of the Executive Committee from any one electoral unit. [Committee agreed by consensus to move forward] **NOT GOING FORWARD**

Proposal 11. II.E.2.a. An Executive Committee shall be elected by majority vote from within the Faculty Senate and shall have no less than five members nor more than ten percent of the total membership of the Faculty Senate, with no more than two members of the Executive Committee from any one electoral unit. The Officers of the Senate shall count toward the allocation of Executive Committee members among the electoral units, but a successful officer candidate is not to be disqualified from the Executive Committee solely on the grounds of this paragraph. [Committee agreed by consensus to move forward] **NOT GOING FORWARD**

Proposal 14. III.B. After a proposed constitutional amendment is initiated, the speaker of the Senate shall publish notification of the proposed amendment. Two weeks after public notification the

Faculty Senate shall hold an open meeting to discuss the proposed amendment. Within one ~~month~~ week after the open meeting, the Speaker shall call for a vote of the faculty on ratification. ~~Faculty~~ faculty shall have two weeks following the call to vote for or against ratification. Ratification shall require approval of two- thirds of the faculty voting on the proposed amendment. [Committee agreed by consensus to move forward]

Bylaws Committee Report

Faculty Senate Bylaws Committee
Bruce Neville, Chair
March 2020



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY.

Constitutional Amendments

PART III. AMENDMENTS

A. Initiation

Amendments to this constitution shall be initiated by:

1. Written petition presented to the Faculty Senate signed by twenty percent of the faculty, or
2. A two-thirds vote of the membership of the Faculty Senate, following a written presentation and discussion of the proposed amendment in a previous regularly scheduled meeting.

B. Ratification

After a proposed constitutional amendment is initiated, the speaker of the Senate shall publish notification of the proposed amendment. Two weeks after public notification the Faculty Senate shall hold an open meeting to discuss the proposed amendment. Within one month after the open meeting, the faculty shall vote for or against ratification. Ratification shall require approval of two-thirds of the faculty voting on the proposed amendment.



Timeline

- 25 Feb. Bylaws Committee proposes Constitutional Amendments to EC.
- 1 March. EC approves proposed amendments.
- 3 March. Senate Office circulates proposed amendments to Full Senate.
- 8 March. Senate discusses and passes (or not) final proposed amendments.
- 10 March. Speaker distributes final proposed amendments to Faculty.
- 24 March. Senate holds open meeting with Faculty to discuss proposed amendments.
- 25 March. Voting on amendment opens for all faculty.
- 22 April. Voting on amendment closes for all faculty.
- 30 April. Results of faculty vote are announced and Constitution amended, if necessary.



General considerations

- All proposals implicitly include provisions to renumber succeeding paragraphs, if necessary, upon adoption.
- All proposals are independent; adoption or rejection of any proposal should not affect adoption or rejection of any other proposal.
- Relatively(?) non-controversial proposals have been combined into a “consent agenda.”



THE “CONSENT AGENDA”



Proposal 1. II.D.3. Elections of senators shall be held annually in ~~April~~ the spring. Procedures for voting will be established by the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Pros

- Current timeline is rushed for multiple runoffs.
- Potentially finishes before finals are over.

Cons

- Potentially draws out election season.



Proposal 2a. II.E.1.b. The Speaker-~~Elect~~ will be elected annually from the Faculty Senate membership.

Proposal 2b. II.E.2.a. An Executive Committee shall be elected by majority vote from within the Faculty Senate and shall have no ~~less~~ fewer than five members nor more than ten percent of the total membership of the Faculty Senate, ...

Pros

- Speaker-Elect is hyphenated in definition.
- Usage correction.

Cons

- None?



Proposal 3. II.H. Reapportionment of the Senate shall take place in 2020 and every ~~three~~ five-years thereafter for the following Senate session. If a new electoral unit is established between reapportionment cycles, a special reapportionment shall be conducted. Reapportionment shall return to its regular cycle following this special reapportionment.

Pros

- Reapportionment is difficult and disruptive.
- Allows for representation for new electoral units between reapportionments.

Cons

- Faculty numbers can shift dramatically between apportionment cycles.



Proposal 5. III.B. Within one ~~month~~ week after the open meeting, the **Speaker shall call for a vote of the faculty on ratification. Faculty ~~faculty~~ shall have two weeks to** vote for or against ratification.

Pros

- Original wording was ambiguous.
- One month is unnecessarily long in a world of electronic voting.

Cons

- None?



END “CONSENT AGENDA”



Proposal 6. ~~II.A.4.c. The College of Medicine shall have two representatives from the clinical faculty of the College of Medicine. The College of Medicine shall otherwise be apportioned as above for their non-clinical faculty.~~

Pros

- “Clinical” faculty of the College of Medicine do not receive A&M paychecks.
- Other colleges have similar affiliated faculty who do not get similar recognition.

Cons

- Affiliated faculty are involved in curriculum development.
- Affiliated faculty are necessary to maintain accreditation.



Proposal 6. II.B. ~~Membership~~ Definition of Faculty

For purposes of the Faculty Senate, ~~individuals eligible for election shall be all~~ faculty shall be defined as those persons employed by Texas A&M University

(1) whose appointment was approved by the Provost of Texas A&M University,

(2) whose faculty appointment at TAMU is the person's primary long-term position, and

(3) ~~who is whose~~ employmentmented at TAMU ~~with is~~ an annual FTE of at least 0.75. ~~Other academic appointees who receive full time salary from funds appropriated as teaching or library salaries shall be counted as faculty.~~

In the case of questioned status under this provision, the decision of the ~~full~~ Faculty Senate shall be final.



Proposal 6. II.B. Definition of Faculty

For purposes of the Faculty Senate, faculty shall be defined as those persons employed by Texas A&M University

- (1) whose appointment was approved by the Provost of Texas A&M University,
- (2) whose faculty appointment at TAMU is the person's primary long-term position, and
- (3) whose employment at TAMU is an annual FTE of at least 0.75.

In the case of questioned status under this provision, the decision of the full Faculty Senate shall be final.



Proposal 6. II.B. Definition of Faculty

Pros

- Previous wording conflated definition of faculty with eligibility for election to Senate.
- Defines faculty as employee of Texas A&M.
- Removes historical artifact.

Cons

- None?



Proposal 7. II.C.4. Any faculty member, as defined [in II.B](#) above, is eligible for election to the Faculty Senate.

Proposal 8. II.D.1. All faculty members, as defined [in II.B](#) above, are eligible to vote, but shall vote in only one electoral unit.

Pros

- Eligibility to sit as Senator is now separated from definition of faculty.
- Eligibility to vote for Senators is now separated from definition of faculty.

Cons

- None?



Proposal 9. II.D.2. Senators shall be elected within their respective electoral units ~~by a place system,~~ by majority vote, and by secret ballot.

Pros

- Many colleges don't have enough seats for a place system.
- Place system is not being used in practice.
- Place system can be gamed.

Cons

- Place system allows faculty to run against unpopular candidates.
- Place system can assure smaller units representation.



Proposal 10. II.E.2.a. An Executive Committee shall be elected ~~by majority vote~~ from within the Faculty Senate and shall have no less than five members nor more than ten percent of the total membership of the Faculty Senate. The at-large members shall be those who receive the highest plurality of votes from among the candidates, with no more than two members of the Executive Committee from any one electoral unit.

Pros

- Applies only to members-at-large, not officers.
- Eliminates need for multiple runoffs.
- Runoffs have resulted in seating of candidates who did not receive a plurality of the initial vote

Cons

- Allows members of the Committee to be elected by less than a majority.

