

8-25-2015

Faculty Senate Approval of May 1, 2015, Bylaw Amendments

USM Faculty Senate

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Office of the Provost

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Jennifer P. Anderson
President, Faculty Senate

FROM: Steven R. Moser
Interim Provost

COPY: Rodney Bennett
President

RE: Revision of Faculty Senate By-laws

DATE: August 25, 2015

As required by the Faculty Handbook (9.1.1), I approve the amendments proposed to section 2.11.1 and 2.11.2. The initial amendments were recommended by unanimous Faculty Senate vote on May 1, 2015. With President Bennett's approval, I recommend full implementation for the 2016 (current) academic year.



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.

The Faculty Senate

118 College Drive
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39406-5053
www.usm.edu/faculty-senate

August 25, 2015

Dr. Steven Moser
Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #5002
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39406

Dear Dr. Moser:

On May 1, 2015, the Faculty Senate passed, by unanimous voice vote, amendments to Article 2.11 of the senate bylaws (see enclosure). The amendments were proposed by Senator Bill Odom, Chair of the senate Bylaws Committee.

There were two purposes for these amendments. First, Section 2.11.1 is meant to encourage active participation in the senate by limiting the number of absences that are allowable with proxy. The senate recognizes that absences may occur due to illness or an irregular schedule conflicts, such as for conference attendance. However, the senate agrees that allowing regular use of proxies by senators does not encourage active participation in shared governance.

The second purpose for these amendments was to change the method for filling vacant (Section 2.11.2) seats by requiring that senate president to consult with the affected unit when filling senate seats. This ensures that the appointments are filled by individuals who are agreed upon by the faculty members they represent.

Section 9.1.1 of the Faculty Senate bylaws requires approval of the Provost and the President of the University in order for amendments to the bylaws to go into effect. With this, I request your approval for these changes.

Sincerely,


Jennifer P. Anderson
President, Faculty Senate

encl: Bylaw Proposal

Proposed Language:

Article 2.11: Attendance and Vacancies

Section 2.11.1: If a senator fails to attend four regularly scheduled meetings within one academic year, whether or not represented by proxy, that senator's position will be declared vacant by the president. The senator will be notified electronically after the second absence and again after the third absence of this regulation.

Section 2.11.2: If a vacancy occurs before January 31, the president, in consultation with the affected college or division, will fill the position with an interim appointment from eligible faculty of said college or division upon approval by a majority vote of the Senate (per Section 7.3.7). Such appointment will terminate at the end of the last regular meeting of the academic year. If a vacancy occurs after January 31, the position will remain vacant until filled during the regular election process.

Current Language:

Article 2.11 Vacancies and Leaves of Absence

Section 2.11.1: A vacancy on the Senate which arises between annual elections in February shall

be filled in the interim by appointment from eligible faculty of the affected college or division by the president of the Senate with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Section 2.11.2: If a vacancy for one year or more on the Senate is in prospect at the time of the annual elections in February, the vacancy shall be filled by regular election procedures as prescribed in these Bylaws of the Senate.

Section 2.11.3: If a vacancy for less than one year is in prospect at the time of the annual elections in February, it shall be filled in the interim by appointment from eligible faculty of the affected college or division by the president of the Senate with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Section 2.11.4: If an elected representative of the Senate takes a leave of absence for a year or less, he or she shall appoint a proxy from his or her college who is eligible for membership as an elected representative or who is a current elected Senate representative from his or her college or division.

Section 2.11.5: If an elected representative on leave fails to designate a proxy or his or her leave of absence extends beyond one year, the position shall be declared vacant by the president of the Senate and filled in the interim by appointment from eligible faculty of the affected college or division by the president of the Senate with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Section 2.11.6: If an elected Senate representative fails to attend two consecutive regularly scheduled meetings without supplying a proxy, he or she shall be notified in writing by the president of the Senate that his or her position will be declared vacant in the event of a third consecutive absence. Upon his or her third consecutive absence, his or her position shall be declared vacant by the president and filled in the interim by appointment from eligible faculty of the affected college or division by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate.