

(phase 1) STRUCTURAL PROPOSAL FOR ACADEMIC SENATE BYLAWS | 24 Oct 2025 | Submitted by Elections Subcommittee

This represents a shift from reactive patchwork to intentional design. Here is a summary of the structural updates using the proposal:

1. *Logical General Flow*: Moves from foundational elements (purpose) → membership → leadership → elections → committees → procedures → governance
2. *Consolidation*: Reduces 23 articles to 7, with committees properly organized as subsections
3. *Completeness*: Adds missing elements (Treasurer, succession planning, removal procedures, special elections)
4. *Modern Governance*: Includes "Faculty Leads" concept; distinguishes between senate subcommittees and college-wide committees; allows room for guiding principles of each committee or subcommittee. Guiding principles that reflect our 10+1 when relevant and our mission and vision for the committees or subcommittees.
5. Opens for further and organized discussions within our senate: composition of senate membership, membership & functions of committees and Executive committee, terms & limits, reassigned load determination, addressing vague language, addressing operational vs. bylaw language, etc.
6. The Senate now has an opportunity to create formal procedures for situations that previously required ad-hoc decision-making, reducing confusion and potential disputes.
7. *Enhanced Findability*: Reduces time spent searching documents during meetings, enables faster onboarding of new senators, and decreases likelihood of overlooking relevant provisions.
8. *Transparency & Accountability*: Prevents bylaws from becoming outdated, ensures changes are documented, and maintains Senate authority over its own governance structure.

Important note: No substantive powers or procedures were removed. The restructure is organizational, not functional.

FROM REACTIVE TO STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE

PROPOSED ARTICLE #	PROPOSED ARTICLE TITLE*	PROPOSED SECTION*	GENERAL PURPOSE
Table of Contents	NA	NA	
Table of Bylaw Updates - records	NA	NA	A chronological record documenting all bylaw amendments, including: date of edits, Senate meeting dates when changes were approved, name of editor, and effective dates of amendments.
Article I	THE ACADEMIC SENATE		
		Sec. 1: Purpose, Definitions & Responsibilities	Establishes the official name of the Senate, its purpose within the college governance structure, and its primary areas of responsibility.
		Sec. 2: Definitions	Defines key terms and concepts used throughout these bylaws (consolidated from original Art. II).
		Sec. 3: Definitions of Participatory Governance [Refer to College PG Handbook]	Establishes definitions for participatory governance terms in alignment with the College Participatory Governance Handbook.
Article II	II: SENATE MEMBERSHIP & REPRESENTATION		
		Sec. 1: Membership Eligibility	Defines eligibility requirements for Senate membership, including regular members, ex-officio members, and resource members, with distinctions between voting and non-voting roles (consolidated from original Art. I, II).
		Sec. 2: Apportionment of Regular Senators	Details how regular senators are allocated (from original Art. III).
		Sec. 3: Apportionment of Adjunct Senators	Details how adjunct senators are allocated (from original Art. III).
		Sec. 4: Terms & Vacancy Procedures	Specifies term lengths for senators and establishes procedures for filling vacancies, including mid-term appointments (from original Art. IV).
		Sec. 5 Succession Planning	Establishes framework for ongoing succession planning and membership recruitment to ensure continuity of Senate operations.
		Sec. 6 Removal or recall procedures	Defines the process and grounds for removal or recall of senators, ensuring due process and member rights. [To be established in discussion in senate
Article III	III: SENATE OFFICERS and FACULTY LEADS/CHAIRS		
		Sec. 1: Officer Positions General Provisions	Lists the official officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer), defines terms of office, and establishes general provisions governing all Senate officers.
		Sec. 2: Roles & Responsibilities of the President	Consolidates all duties of the President (from original Art. VII).

		Sec. 3: Roles & Responsibilities of the Vice President	Consolidates all duties of the Vice President (from original Art. VIII).
		Sec. 4: Roles & Responsibilities of the Secretary	Consolidates all duties of the Secretary (from original Art. IX).
		Sec. 5: Roles & Responsibilities of the Treasurer	Establishes the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer, including financial oversight and budget reporting (new position established Fall 2025).
		Sec. 6: Officer Succession & Vacancies	
		Sec. 7: Faculty Lead/Chair Positions & General Provisions	Lists Faculty Lead and Chair positions under Senate authority, defines terms of office, and distinguishes between Senate-appointed leadership roles.
		Sec. 8: Formation & Deactivation of Faculty Lead Positions	Establishes the process by which Faculty Lead positions may be created, modified, or deactivated, including Senate approval requirements.
		Sec. 9: Roles & Responsibilities of Faculty Leads/Chairs	Defines general responsibilities applicable to all Faculty Leads and Chairs, including reporting requirements and relationship to Senate committees.
		Sec. 10: Faculty Lead Succession & Vacancies	Establishes procedures for filling vacant Faculty Lead positions, including interim appointments and transition protocols.
Article IV	IV: ELECTIONS		
		Sec. 1: General Provisions & Timeline	Establishes overarching guidance and a master overall timetable for all elections.
		Sec. 2: Election of Regular Senators	Consolidates procedures from original Art. IV.
		Sec. 3: Election of Adjunct Senators	Consolidates procedures from original Art. V.
		Sec. 4: Election of Officers	Centralizes election rules for all officers (from original Art. VI).
		Sec. 5: Election of At-Large Executive Committee Members	Defines the election process for at-large members of the Executive Committee (from original Art. X).
		Sec. 6: Election of Faculty Leads	Establishes election procedures for Faculty Leads under Senate authority and specifies exceptions for administratively-appointed positions.
		Sec. 7: Election of Committee Chairs	New consolidated section for all committee chair elections (from original Art. XV, XIX).
		Sec. 8: Special Elections	New section - mid-term vacancies on all positions

		Sec. 9: Outstanding Faculty Elections	Defines the process for nominating and selecting faculty for outstanding achievement awards (from original Art. V).
Article V	V: COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE		
		Sec. 1: General Committee Guidelines	General rules for all committees (membership, appointments, reporting, annual evaluation of viability & creation based on needs (internal & external forces), etc)
		Sec. 2: The Executive Committee	Details composition and duties of the Executive Committee (from original Art. X).
		Sec. 3: Subcommittees of the Academic Senate	Defines the permanent subcommittees (missing from Art. XI, improved use of terms and def).
		Subsection A. Elections Committee (from original Art. XI)	
		Subsection B. Educational Policy & Procedures Committee (from original Art. XII)	
		Subsection C. Personnel Policy Committee (from original Art. XIII)	
		Sec. 4: Senate-Affiliated College Committees	Defines college-wide committees that operate under Academic Senate authority or joint authority with college council.
		Subsection A. Curriculum Committee	perfects from original Art. XV-XIX
		Subsection B. Program Review	perfects from original Art. XV-XIX
		Sec. 5: Ad Hoc Committees	Defines the creation and role of temporary committees (from original Art. XIV).
			A. Task Forces
Article VI	VI: MEETINGS		
		Sec. 1: Regular Meetings	From original Art. XXI.
		Sec. 2: Special & Emergency Meetings	Establishes procedures for calling and conducting special and emergency meetings (from original Art. XXII).
		Sec. 3: Quorum	From original Art. XXI.

		Sec. 4: Agenda & Public Comment	From original Art. XXI.
		Sec. 5: Rules of Order	Specifies parliamentary procedure (from original Art. XXI).
Article VII	VII: BYLAWS GOVERNANCE		
		Sec. 1: Amendment of Bylaws	Outlines the process for changing the bylaws (from original Art. XXIII).
		Sec. 2: Periodic Review	Requires periodic review of bylaws to ensure currency and alignment with institutional needs (new provision).