

UNIVERSITY SENATE  
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Introduced by: Governance Council  
Date: March 9, 2015

**Amendment RE: Voting for *Ex Officio* Members of the University Senate**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

- That the proposed amendments of the Faculty Bylaws below be adopted
- That these amendments go into effect immediately

**Current Bylaws**

**Article II. Section 2 — Composition of the Senate**

2.1 The *ex officio* voting members of the Senate shall be the President, the Provost, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Vice President for Research, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Vice President for Finance and Business, Senate officers, the University Senators to the Faculty Senate of the State University of New York, the dean elected by the deans of the schools and colleges, the president of the Graduate Student Organization, the president of the Student Association, and the chair of the Student Association Senate.

**Article II. Section 4 — Executive Committee of the Senate**

4.1 Composition:

The President of the University, *ex officio*;

The Provost of the University, *ex officio*;

The Chair of the Senate (who shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee), *ex officio*;

The immediate Past Chair of the Senate, *ex officio*;

The Vice Chair of the Senate, *ex officio*;

The Secretary of the Senate, *ex officio*;

The Chairs of the Senate Councils, *ex officio*;

The representatives to the SUNY Senate, *ex officio*;

The President of the Graduate Student Organization, *ex officio*, or a graduate student Senator designated to serve for the year

The President of the Student Association, *ex officio*, or the Chair of the Student Association Senate or another undergraduate student Senator designated to serve for the year.

**Proposed Revision to the Bylaws:**

## **Article II. Section 2 — Composition of the Senate**

2.1 The *ex officio non-voting* members of the Senate shall be the President, the **Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost**, the **Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education**, **Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education**, the Vice President for Research, the **Vice President for Student Success**, the **Vice President for Finance and Administration**, and the dean elected by the deans of the schools and colleges. **The *ex officio* voting members of the Senate shall be** the Senate officers, the University Senators to the Faculty Senate of the State University of New York, the president of the Graduate Student **Association**, the president of the Student Association, and the chair of the Student Association Senate.

## **Article II. Section 4 — Executive Committee of the Senate**

### 4.1 Composition:

The President of the University, *ex officio non-voting*;

The **Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of the University**, *ex officio non-voting*;

The Chair of the Senate (who shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee), *ex officio voting*;

The immediate Past Chair of the Senate, *ex officio voting*;

The Vice Chair of the Senate, *ex officio voting*;

The Secretary of the Senate, *ex officio voting*;

The Chairs of the Senate Councils, *ex officio voting*;

The representatives to the SUNY Senate, *ex officio voting*;

The President of the Graduate Student **Association**, *ex officio voting*, or a graduate student Senator designated to serve for the year

The President of the Student Association, *ex officio voting*, or the Chair of the Student Association Senate or another undergraduate student Senator designated to serve for the year.

### **Rationale:**

The proposed amendment to the Faculty Bylaws addresses a request made to the University Senate by President Jones in his letter of November 14, 2014, that the Senate consider amending the Faculty Bylaws and Charter to remove voting privileges from individuals who by virtue of their administrative title hold *ex officio* positions on the Senate and its Councils and Committees. In affirming his commitment to the notion that faculty, professional and student constituencies are independent partners in shared institutional governance, President Jones also urged the Senate to retain the *ex officio* administrative positions, arguing that administrative participation offers “the two-fold benefit of helping inform discussion of issues under review while helping to keep University leaders aware of the University community’s perspective on critical issues.”

In its consideration of the President’s request, the Governance Council notes that the proposed amendment formalizes the recommendation articulated in *The University at Albany Senate Handbook* that “in order for the actions and recommendations of the Senate and its Councils and Committees to reflect as much as possible the voice of the Faculty and other members of the Senate, *ex officio* members of the Senate and its Councils who are members of the administration should abstain from voting on bills or other recommendations.” The Governance Council acknowledges that administrative participation in the Senate is valuable, but recommends removing voting privileges solely

from *ex officio* administrative members because we believe it is redundant. Retaining voting privileges for non-administrative *ex officio* members such as the presidents of the Graduate Student Association and the Student Association would acknowledge and strengthen the faculty's autonomy in exercising its advisement, consultation, and recommendation actions, as well as maintaining the essential inclusion of professional staff and students.

The first change in article II, section 2.1, splits the *ex officio* members of the Senate into two groups; *ex officio* voting, and *ex officio* non-voting.

The change to article II, section 4.1, inserts the terms "non-voting" and " voting" next to the appropriate *ex officio* members of the Senate Executive Committee to remain consistent with article II, section 2.1.

The amendment also updates the language of the Bylaws to reflect official changes to administrative titles and to the name of the organization representing graduate students since the document was first written.