

Proposed WKU Faculty Senate Charter Amendment

Current Language:

IV. The Organization of the Faculty Senate

4. The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee

The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee shall consist of voting members, their alternates, and non-voting advisory members. One Faculty Senate representative and one alternate shall be selected from each college and the Library by Faculty Senate colleagues from the same college/Library. To ensure adequate representation, three at large appointees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The at-large appointees should normally be Senators, but non-Senators may be appointed. A faculty member from an extended campus and a part-time faculty member shall also serve as voting members of this Committee. These members shall be selected by rotation among the off-campus centers in the extended campus member's case and rotated among the colleges for the part-time faculty member. One student senator shall be selected by the Student Government Association to serve on the Committee. The selected senators, at-large appointees, extended campus representative, part-time faculty representative, and the student government representative shall be voting members. A representative from the Office of the Provost shall be a non-voting advisory member of this committee.

Proposed Changes:

IV. The Organization of the Faculty Senate

4. The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee

The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee shall consist of voting members, their alternates, and non-voting advisory members. One Faculty Senate representative and one alternate shall be selected from each college and the Library by Faculty Senate colleagues from the same college/Library. **In the event that the total number of departmental and at-large Senators representing a college or the Library is less than the number of standing committees of the Faculty Senate, the Senators from that college/Library may appoint another member of their faculty to serve on the committee.** To ensure adequate representation, three at large appointees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The at-large appointees should normally be Senators, but non-Senators may be appointed. A faculty member from an extended campus and a part-time faculty member shall also serve as voting members of this Committee. These members shall be selected by rotation among the off-campus centers in the extended campus member's case and rotated among the colleges for the part-time faculty member. One student senator shall be selected by the Student Government Association to serve on the Committee. The selected senators, at-large appointees, extended campus representative, part-time faculty representative, and the student government representative shall be voting members. A representative from the Office of the Provost shall be a non-voting advisory member of this committee.

Rationale:

The faculty voice as represented by Faculty Senate is stronger when all of Faculty Senate's committees are fully staffed. One difficulty in making this a reality is that Senators from smaller colleges can be forced to serve on multiple senate committees that require representation from each college. This can often result in vacant seats on the committee or Senators nominally being on the committee's roll but rarely attending. It can also result in burnout for those who do attend multiple committee meetings. This proposed Charter Amendment would allow the committee, and ultimately the Senate, to function more smoothly while giving service relief to Senators from smaller colleges.