

WKU FACULTY SENATE: May 6, 2021

Senate Charter Revision, Section IV.F.1

Approved on Second Reading

Senate Recommendation 2021-05-12 SCR Section IV.F.1

Julia Shadoan, Senate Chair

Proposed WKU Faculty Senate Charter Amendment

IV.F.1

Current language:

F. The Handbook Committee

The Handbook Committee receives proposed changes to the Handbook that have been approved by the Faculty Senate and the Provost. The committee reviews and incorporates approved changes in new Handbook editions, ensuring that the integrity and spirit of the change is maintained and is consistent with the existing Handbook. The committee is also responsible for monitoring and recommending policies and procedures for future Handbook revisions.

1. Composition and Voting Procedures of the Handbook Committee:

The Handbook Committee is composed of the immediate past chair of the Faculty Senate who will serve as chair, and one tenured faculty member from each college of the University selected by the faculty from such college. Selection of college representatives will be overseen by the Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate. If the immediate past Faculty Senate chair is no longer employed by the University, any past Faculty Senate chair who continues to be employed by the university shall serve as chair of the committee. The current chair of the Faculty Senate and a representative from the office of the Provost shall also be members of the Faculty Handbook Committee but shall not have a vote.

Proposed language:

F. The Handbook Committee

The Handbook Committee may on its own initiative propose changes to the Handbook for submission to the Faculty Senate for review and approval. Further, the Handbook Committee may receive proposed changes to the Handbook that originated in other Faculty Senate committees and have been approved by the Faculty Senate and the Provost. The Committee reviews and incorporates approved changes in new Handbook editions, ensuring that the integrity and spirit of the change is maintained and is consistent with the existing Handbook. The Committee is also responsible for monitoring and recommending policies and procedures for future Handbook revisions.

1. Composition and Voting Procedures of the Handbook Committee:

The Handbook Committee is composed of the immediate past chair of the Faculty Senate who will-may serve as chair, and one tenured faculty member from each college of the University selected by the faculty from such college. Selection of college representatives will be overseen by the Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate. If the immediate past Faculty Senate chair chooses not to serve as chair of the Handbook Committee, the current members of the Committee shall elect a chair from its membership no later than September 1st. is no longer

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Rationale:

Handbook Committee Responsibility Proposal: Current language is not clear that amendment proposals may originate with the Handbook Committee.

Chair Amendment Proposal: The requirement for the Faculty Senate Chair to serve as Chair of the Handbook Book Committee after leaving office places an undue service burden on that Chair position and may have a chilling effect on the willingness of senators to run for office. In the past, former Senate Chairs have refused to serve as Handbook Chair. This caused disruption to the business of the Handbook Committee. The proposed language provides an alternative mechanism to elect a Chair and imposes a deadline to do so.