

Constitution of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS)

Article I: Name

The name of this Association shall be Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS).

Article II: Purposes

This Association shall have as its purposes:

- 1) To represent the missions, accomplishments and needs of public universities to state agencies and to the general public of the State of Tennessee in matters of common interest and concern
- 2) To foster the role played by the Faculty in the shared governance of Tennessee's public universities
- 3) To facilitate communication and cooperation between the various Faculty Senates or equivalents of the State of Tennessee's public universities

Article III: Membership

This Association shall be composed of the Tennessee public university Faculty Senates or equivalents that elect to become members.

Article IV: Representation

The elected President of each Faculty Senate or equivalent shall serve as its voting representative. Each body shall also select a campus representative who shall participate in the discussions of the Association. It is recommended that, to ensure continuity and assist the Senate president with the relationship to the Association, the campus representative be appointed for a three-year term. In the event that neither the voting representative nor the campus representative are able to attend a meeting, the voting representative of the member body affected shall convey to the Secretary of TUFS the name of an individual authorized to vote on the body's behalf during that meeting.

Article V: Officers

The officers of the Association shall be the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, and

the Immediate Past-President. They shall be known collectively as the Executive Committee. The President and the President-Elect shall serve a one-year term, and the Secretary shall serve a two-year term. These officers shall be elected by the voting representatives of the Association's member bodies. The President and the President-Elect may not be the voting representative from their respective institutions. Except under exceptional circumstances, the Presidency shall not be held by a member university more frequently than once in four years.

The President of Tennessee University Faculty Senates shall:

- 1) Preside over general meetings of Tennessee University Faculty Senates and meetings of the Association's Executive Committee
- 2) Provide an agenda for all meetings to the membership
- 3) Report at general meetings on all business transacted by the Executive Committee
- 4) Act as the official spokesperson for Tennessee University Faculty Senates in all external communications
- 5) Serve as a liaison to state agencies, including the governing boards and legislative advocacy officers of the respective member public universities, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission

The President-Elect shall assist the President in the performance of constitutional duties. The President-Elect shall become President immediately upon the expiration of the President's term.

The Secretary shall maintain all TUFs documents, record and archive minutes of meetings, and oversee the TUFs website.

Vacancies on the Executive Committee may be filled on an interim basis by the Executive Committee. Such vacancies shall be filled by the voting representatives at the next general meeting of the Association. Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the entire cohort of voting representatives.

Article VI: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the present Constitution or with any special rules adopted by the Association.

Article VII: Meetings

Two general meetings of the Association shall be held annually, during the Fall and Spring academic semesters. Two meetings, one in Summer and one in Winter, shall be held with remote attendance. The date of the next general meeting shall be fixed at the meeting immediately preceding it. The virtual meetings will be coordinated by the President. Additional meetings may be called with the approval of a majority of the entire cohort of voting representatives.

Article VIII: Voting

Each member institution shall have two representatives on TUFs, the president of the Faculty Senate and a campus representative selected by the Senate president. The president of the Faculty Senate or designee shall be the voting member. Should the president be unable to attend a meeting, they shall notify the TUFs Secretary of their designee.

The voting representative may designate the campus representative as the temporary voting representative in their absence, or another individual of their choice. Voting representatives shall be current members or immediate past members (within five years) of Tennessee public university Faculty Senates. Voting may occur in a face-to-face environment, by email, or by other electronic means.

Resolutions shall be considered adopted when a simple majority of member bodies have responded in the affirmative. In the case of a tie vote, the TUFs President shall resolve the tie by casting the deciding vote.

Article IX: Ad hoc Committees

TUFs may establish such committees as it deems advisable, and shall prescribe the duties of these committees. Committee chairs shall be elected by the voting representatives.

Article X: Amendments to the Constitution

Any proposed amendment to the constitution shall require approval by a two-thirds majority of the entire cohort of voting representatives.