



**UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS  
ACADEMIC SENATE**

**STATUTES and BYE-LAWS**

**June 8, 2020**

**Final Version**

## **Contents**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE 2**

#### **COMPOSITION OF THE SENATE 2**

#### **APPOINTMENT TO SENATE 2**

#### **ELECTION OF SENATORS 2**

- Elections 2
- Full Time Faculty 3
- Adjunct or Part Time Faculty 3
- Staff 3
- Students 4
- Bye-Elections 4

#### **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SENATORS 4**

- Attendance 4
- Service 4
- Removal from the Senate 4

#### **COMMITTEES 5**

#### **SENATE OFFICERS 5**

- Chair 5
- Vice-Chair 6
- Secretary 6
- Assistant Secretary 6
- Parliamentarian 6
- Removal of Senate Officers 7

#### **MEETINGS 7**

- Ordinary meetings 7
- Special Call Meetings 7
- Meeting Sessions 7

#### **AMMENDMENTS 8**

#### **EXISTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 8**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS  
ACADEMIC SENATE**

**STATUTES and BYE-LAWS**

**1. RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

The responsibilities and powers shall be as defined in Article 7 of the University of The Bahamas Act, 2016.

**2. COMPOSITION OF THE SENATE**

The composition of the Senate shall be as defined in Statue X of the University of The Bahamas Act, 2016.

**3. APPOINTMENT TO SENATE**

3.1. University President

3.1.1. The University President shall serve by virtue of his/her position within the institution for so long as he/she continues to hold the position of President.

3.2. Officers of the University

3.2.1. Officers of the University carrying out administrative duties who shall be appointed by the President to serve for an initial two years may be reappointed.

**4. ELECTION OF SENATORS**

4.1. Elections

4.1.1. Senate Officers and the Committee on Committees shall ensure that the Senate and all of its committees are duly constituted.

4.1.2. Elections for faculty and staff senators shall be held at least one month before the end of the Spring Semester in each even year.

4.1.3. Elections for student senators shall be held at least one month before the end of the Spring Semester each year.

4.1.4. The Senate Chair shall announce the date for elections at least one month in advance of the elections.

4.1.5. Election results shall be read into the minutes of the first Senate meeting immediately following the elections.

4.2. Full-time Faculty

4.2.1. Full-time faculty may be elected to Senate if they:

- 4.2.1.1. have been employed by the University for three or more consecutive years;
  - 4.2.1.2. do not hold office in any bargaining unit of the University; and
  - 4.2.1.3. do not serve on the University Board of Trustees.
- 4.2.2. Full-time Faculty Senators shall serve for an initial term of two years and may not normally serve for more than two consecutive terms.
- 4.2.3. In those instances where an eligible successor has not been identified for an academic unit, a full-time Faculty Senator may be re-elected to serve for longer than two consecutive terms.

#### 4.3. Adjunct or Part-time Faculty

- 4.3.1. Adjunct or Part-time Faculty may be elected to Senate if they:
  - 4.3.1.1. have been employed to teach at least one course for academic credit in the Fall or Spring Semester;
  - 4.3.1.2. have been employed as an Adjunct or Part-time Faculty by the University for a minimum of five (5) academic years;
  - 4.3.1.3. do not hold office in any bargaining unit; and
  - 4.3.1.4. do not serve on the University Board of Trustees.
- 4.3.2. Adjunct or Part-time Faculty Senators are eligible to serve as long as they are assigned to teach at least one course for academic credit in either the Fall or Spring Semester during their elected term.
- 4.3.3. Adjunct or Part-time Faculty Senators may serve for an initial term of two years and may not normally serve for more than two consecutive terms.
- 4.3.4. In those instances where no eligible successor is identified, an Adjunct or Part-time Faculty Senator may be re-elected to serve for longer than two consecutive terms provided he/she continues to be assigned to teach at least one course for academic credit during either the Fall or Spring Semester during their elected term.

#### 4.4. Staff

- 4.4.1. Staff members may be elected to the Senate if they:
  - 4.4.1.1. have been employed by the University for three or more consecutive years;
  - 4.4.1.2. do not hold office in any bargaining unit of the University; and
  - 4.4.1.3. do not serve on the University Board of Trustees.
- 4.4.2. Staff Senators shall serve for an initial term of two years and may not normally serve for more than two consecutive terms.
- 4.4.3. In those instances where no eligible successor has been identified, Staff Senators may be re-elected to serve for longer than two consecutive terms.

#### 4.5. Students

##### 4.5.1. University of The Bahamas students may be elected to Senate if they:

- 4.5.1.1. are enrolled full-time in an undergraduate degree programme and have an overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or above having completed a minimum of thirty (30) credits at the University;
- 4.5.1.2. are enrolled in a graduate degree programme with an overall GPA of 3.00 or above having completed a minimum of fifteen (15) credits at the University; and
- 4.5.1.3. do not serve as an executive on the Student Government Association or serve on the University Board of Trustees.

##### 4.5.2. Student Senators shall serve for one year as long as they maintain the eligibility GPA as outlined in 4.5.1.

#### 4.6. Bye-Elections

- 4.6.1. In the event that a Senator resigns or is unable to fulfil their duties for a period of at least two consecutive months, the Senate seat may be considered vacant and may be filled by a bye-election.
- 4.6.2. Bye-elections shall be held at the beginning of each semester or as vacancies arise.
- 4.6.3. The eligibility requirements hereinbefore expressly set out for Faculty, Staff and Student Senators shall apply during a bye-election.
- 4.6.4. Senators elected in bye-elections shall serve out the term of the vacated Senate seat.

### 5. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SENATORS

#### 5.1. Attendance

##### 5.1.1. Senators shall

- 5.1.1.1. Attend all Ordinary Senate Meetings.
- 5.1.1.2. Attend all Extraordinary Meetings.

##### 5.1.2. Senators-elect shall attend at least one Ordinary Meeting during the semester preceding the year in which they have been elected to serve.

#### 5.2. Service

##### Senators shall

- 5.2.1. Participate in the work of the Senate as defined in Article 7, Clause 7.3 of the University of The Bahamas Act, 2016.
- 5.2.2. Serve on a minimum of one and a maximum of two Senate Committees.
- 5.2.3. Represent the needs and concerns of their constituents and convey information from the Senate to their constituents.
- 5.2.4. Declare all conflicts of interest to the Senate Chair.

#### 5.3. Removal from Senate

- 5.3.1. Senators shall be removed from office and their seat declared vacant if
  - 5.3.1.1. They fail to attend two consecutive Ordinary Meetings without due cause.

- 5.3.1.2. They fail to declare a conflict of interest if elected or appointed to a position within or outside of the University that represents a conflict of interest and or function.
- 5.3.1.3. Contravene or breach Senate confidentiality.
- 5.3.2. Senators who have been removed from office
  - 5.3.2.1. Must sit out the remainder of their term.
  - 5.3.2.2. May be re-elected to Senate.

## **6. COMMITTEES**

The Academic Senate shall establish committees to execute the business of the Senate and help fulfill its mandate.

- 6.1. A Standing Committee is a permanent committee of Senate governed by a terms of reference and with the authority to exercise certain powers and perform specific duties as delegated.
- 6.2. A Special Committee is any other committee convened by Senate to carry out a specific function or task for a specific period.
- 6.3. Standing Committees of Senate shall include:
  - 6.3.1. Faculty Boards
  - 6.3.2. Committee on Committees
  - 6.3.3. Statutes, Bye-Laws and Rules Committee
  - 6.3.4. Academic Policies Committee
  - 6.3.5. University Libraries Committee
  - 6.3.6. Promotion, Tenure and Post-Tenure Review Committee
  - 6.3.7. Student Affairs Committee
  - 6.3.8. Committee on Research and Creative Works
  - 6.3.9. Faculty Development Committee
  - 6.3.10. Curriculum/Academic Programme Committee
- 6.4. The Senate Chair shall be an ex officio member of all Senate committees.
- 6.5. The Chair of each committee, Standing or Special, shall be a member of Senate.

## **7. SENATE OFFICERS**

The Senate shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Parliamentarians.

- 7.1. The Senate Chair shall
  - 7.1.1. Hold full-time faculty status at the University;
  - 7.1.2. Be elected from amongst the Senators;
  - 7.1.3. Serve for an initial term of two years and may be re-elected as Chair for one more additional term;
  - 7.1.4. Convene and preside over all Senate meetings;
  - 7.1.5. Establish and maintain orderly meeting proceedings;
  - 7.1.6. Cast a vote on a motion before the Senate only in the event of a tie;
  - 7.1.7. Serve as an ex-officio member of all Senate committees;

- 7.1.8. Communicate the work of the Senate to the University community; and
- 7.1.9. Be eligible for a reduction of one course per semester in consultation with the Academic Dean.

7.2. The Vice Chair shall

- 7.2.1. Hold full-time faculty status at the University;
- 7.2.2. Be elected from amongst the Senators;
- 7.2.3. Serve for an initial term of two years and may be re-elected as Vice-Chair for one more additional term;
- 7.2.4. Perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair;
- 7.2.5. Serve as Chair until a successor is elected in the event of the resignation or removal of the Chair.

7.3. The Secretary shall

- 7.3.1. Hold full-time faculty or full-time staff status at the University;
- 7.3.2. Be elected from amongst the Senators;
- 7.3.3. Serve for an initial term of two years and may be re-elected as Secretary for one more additional term;
- 7.3.4. Record and distribute minutes of Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings to all Senators along with copies of documents shared at meetings;
- 7.3.5. Ensure that the list of current Senators is posted to the University's website as well as Senate committees and membership on committees;
- 7.3.6. Maintain a current list of Senators documenting their attendance;
- 7.3.7. Locate and share institutional documents relevant to the functioning of the Senate;
- 7.3.8. Reserve and prepare the room for Senate meetings; and
- 7.3.2. Be eligible for a reduction of one course per semester in consultation with their Academic Dean, if a full-time member of faculty or eligible for a reduced workload in consultation with the Administrative Council member responsible for their area, if a full-time member of staff.

7.4. The Assistant Secretary shall:

- 7.4.1. hold full-time faculty or full-time staff status at the University;
- 7.4.2. be elected from amongst the Senators;
- 7.4.3. serve for an initial term of two years and may be re-elected as Assistant Secretary for a period of one more additional term;
- 7.4.4. perform the duties of the Secretary in the absence of the Secretary; and
- 7.4.5. serve as Secretary until a successor is elected in the event of the resignation or removal of the Secretary.

7.5. There shall be two Parliamentarians who shall:

- 7.5.1. hold full-time faculty or full-time staff status at the University;
- 7.5.2. be elected from amongst the Senators;
- 7.5.3. serve for an initial term of two years and may be re-elected as Parliamentarians for a period of one more additional term;
- 7.5.4. assist the Senate Chair with orderly meeting proceedings as needed;

- 7.5.5. ensure Senators adhere to all statutes, bye-laws, rules and regulations established by the Senate in accordance with the University of The Bahamas Act, 2016; and
- 7.5.6. enforce Robert's Rules of Order.
- 7.6. Removal of Senate Officers
  - 7.6.1. Senate Officers may be removed from office if they:
    - 7.6.1.1. Are no longer eligible to serve as Senator.
    - 7.6.1.2. Are found negligent in the performance of their duties.
    - 7.6.1.3. Are found to have an undeclared conflict of interest.
  - 7.6.2. Senate Officers who have been removed:
    - 7.6.2.1. May continue to serve as Senators for the remainder of their term as long as the removal from office was not based on their ineligibility to serve on Senate.
    - 7.6.2.2. May be re-elected to the Senate.
    - 7.6.2.3. May not hold any other Senate Office for no fewer than two years.

## 8. MEETINGS

- 8.1. Ordinary Meetings
  - 8.1.1. Ordinary Meetings shall be held on the second Tuesday of every month and may be held on the following Tuesday in the event of:
    - 8.1.1.1. A national holiday.
    - 8.1.1.2. An academic break.
    - 8.1.1.3. Force majeure.
  - 8.1.2. There shall be no fewer than seven Ordinary Meetings per academic year:
    - 8.1.2.1. three meetings in the Fall Semester;
    - 8.1.2.2. three meetings in the Spring Semester; and
    - 8.1.2.3. one meeting in the Summer Session.
  - 8.1.3. Ordinary Meetings shall have a quorum of fifty percent (50%) plus one of the total membership, inclusive of:
    - 8.1.3.1. Fifty percent (50%) plus one of Faculty Senators; and the
    - 8.1.3.2. Senate Chair, Secretary and one Parliamentarian.
- 8.2. Extraordinary Meetings
  - 8.2.1. A Extraordinary Meeting shall be any meeting other than a Ordinary Meeting and may be convened by the Senate Chair on the following basis:
    - 8.2.1.1. A majority vote of the Senate, or
    - 8.2.1.2. A request by twenty-five percent (25%) plus one member of Senate, or
    - 8.2.1.3. The academic needs of the University.
  - 8.2.2. Extraordinary Meetings shall have a quorum of fifty percent (50%) plus one of the total membership, inclusive of:
    - 8.2.2.1. Fifty percent (50%) plus one of Faculty Senators; and the
    - 8.2.2.2. Senate Chair, Secretary and one Parliamentarian.
- 8.3. Meeting Sessions



- 8.3.1. Open sessions shall be quorate and accessible to all members of the University community.
  - 8.3.1.1. Non-Senators, unless invited to do so by the Senate Chair, shall not participate in meeting discussions.
  - 8.3.1.2. Non-Senators shall not be eligible to vote on matters before the Senate.
  - 8.3.1.3. Non-Senators shall be seated in designated areas.
- 8.3.2. Closed sessions shall be quorate, convened by the Senate Chair and shall be:
  - 8.3.2.1. Open to Senators only and to those guests who have been invited by the Senate Chair to speak on a matter on the agenda.
  - 8.3.2.2. Strictly confidential and may not be discussed outside of the session.

## **9. AMENDMENTS**

- 9.1. A request for an amendment to the bye-laws shall be made in writing to the Statutes, Bye-Laws and Rules Committee Chair through the Senate Secretary by:
  - 9.1.1. Twenty-five percent (25%) plus one Senator.
  - 9.1.2. The Board of Trustees.
  - 9.1.3. The Office of Academic Affairs.
  - 9.1.4. The University community with signatures of no less than twenty-five percent (25%) plus one of either currently enrolled students or currently employed faculty and or staff.
- 9.2. The request shall be reviewed by the Statutes, Bye-Laws and Rules Committee who shall forward a recommendation to the Academic Senate.

## **10. EXISTING POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

These byelaws revoke and repeal all previous practices, rules, policies and regulations, whether conventional or nonconventional, with effect from the date of passage/approval of these byelaws.