Faculty Senate Constitution

ARTICLE I - PREAMBLE AND PURPOSE

The Faculty Senate of Black Hills State University is an elected body which expresses the faculty’s concerns for the welfare and improvement of the university through stimulating communications, formulating general university policy, and performing those duties and functions especially allocated to or assumed by the faculty.

Black Hills State University, under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents of the State of South Dakota, is a self-governing community of scholars in which faculty, staff, administration, and students all have legitimate and meaningful roles to play in the achievement of their common goals.

The Faculty Senate constitutes the proper forum for faculty participation in policy and procedural determination with regard to those academic matters in which the faculty have expertise and responsibility and in all other areas that affect the faculty.

The actions taken by the Faculty Senate are subject to the limitations imposed by the laws of the State of South Dakota, the President of the University, and the Council of Higher Education’s (COHE)/Board of Regents’ (BOR) contract.

The Faculty Senate subscribes to and promotes the American Association of University Professors’ Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom.

ARTICLE II - NATURE, AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBILITY, AND DUTIES

Section 1
The Faculty Senate shall be the delegate assembly of the faculty through which the faculty members shall normally exercise their powers. “Faculty member” is defined as an employee of the Board of Regents included in the collective bargaining unit as defined in Appendix A of the BOR/COHE contract. Administrators, as defined by the BOR/COHE contract, shall neither participate in nor serve on the Faculty Senate.

Section 2
The Faculty Senate shall work toward the orderly development of the educational programs and policies of the university; facilitate communication and cooperation among officers of the administration and the university faculty; promote the continued improvement of higher education in the state of South Dakota; and strive to procure the best conditions possible for faculty instruction, research, and service.

Section 3
The Faculty Senate shall have the power to review, consider, recommend and in some cases determine policies pertaining to the general welfare of the university, the faculty, and the students. The Faculty Senate will present faculty positions on academic and other issues of university concern and examine and recommend to the President and/or the Board of Regents any action taken by a committee, council, college, school, department, or other administrative office of the university.
The Faculty Senate’s responsibilities will include but are not limited to making recommendations:

a. for entrance requirements for students;
b. for the general education requirements for the university;
c. for the registration procedure;
d. for the academic catalog contents;
e. on requested courses and curriculum changes;
f. for graduation requirements;
g. for rules and regulations for the granting of honorary degrees by the institution;
h. for rules and regulations for the government and discipline of the students;
i. for rules and regulations for the organization, operation, and control of student organizations and group activities;
j. for rules and regulations to govern the conduct of all intercollegiate activities, including athletics;
k. for approval of degree, diploma, and certificate candidates;
l. for committees and committee members to function on behalf of the faculty.

Section 4
The Faculty Senate shall have the power to advise the University President on general budgetary policy and financial problems directly affecting the university.

Section 5
The Faculty Senate shall foster open and free communication between faculty and the administration. Any member of the faculty may request the Senate to consider, for discussion and possible action, topics of concern for the welfare and improvement of the university and higher education in South Dakota under the jurisdiction of the Senate.

Section 6
The Faculty Senate shall consider questions referred to it by the University President, the Provost and/or the President of the Faculty Senate.

Section 7
The Faculty Senate shall have the power to establish ad hoc and standing committees; establish rules, memberships and procedures for its committees; and review, approve, or veto the actions of the committees under its jurisdiction.

Section 8
Nothing in this article shall be construed as prohibiting consultation at all levels of the student, faculty, or administrative organization.

Section 9
Upon a written request, signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the faculty, any action of the Faculty Senate may be reviewed at a general faculty meeting called within two weeks of the receipt of the request.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTIONS

Section 1
Members of the Senate will be elected from their respective college. Each college will elect members as follows:
The length of a senator’s term shall be three (3) years. Terms will be staggered
and no college shall choose senators with terms of equal length.

a. College of Business and Natural Sciences (Schools of Business and of Natural Sciences): Three (3) members: one (1) from each School and one (1) from the College at large.

b. College of Education and Behavioral Sciences (Schools of Education and of Behavioral Sciences): Three (3) members: one (1) from each School and one (1) from the College at large.

c. College of Liberal Arts (Schools of Arts and Humanities and of Math and Social Sciences): Three (3) members: one (1) from each School and one (1) from the College at large.

Section 2
In the event a member is unable to assume or complete his/her term, a special election shall be held within the unit (School or College) from which the member was elected and the elected individual will complete the unexpired term.

Section 3
Election of members shall be held each year no earlier than April 1 nor later than April 30. Members elected in April will be seated at the first meeting held after April 30. In April the President shall solicit nominations for vacancies on the Senate caused by the expiration of terms or unexpected vacancies and oversee the election of the new members.

Section 4
The Vice-president of the Faculty Senate shall act as chair of the election committee. The President of the Faculty Senate shall appoint by March 1 two Senate members to serve on the election committee.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS
Section 1
The officers of the Faculty Senate shall consist of a president, vice-president, and secretary. These officers shall constitute the executive committee of the Senate. The executive committee will coordinate and monitor the activities and actions of the Senate.

Section 2
The President, Vice-president, and Secretary of the Senate shall be elected from the voting members of the Senate at the first meeting in May. The persons elected will assume office on August 1. The college or school represented by the President shall elect an additional member to the Senate for the duration of the President’s service.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES
Section 1
The Faculty Senate shall meet a minimum of once a month at the time and place determined by the Senate. The Bylaws may provide for meetings more than once a month. (Bylaws, Article III, Section 1)

Section 2
Special meetings of the Senate shall be called by the President of the Faculty Senate or upon written request to the President of the Senate by one-half of the voting membership of the Senate.
Section 3
Senate meetings are open to all members of the faculty. Other university personnel besides the
Senate may participate in Senate discussions upon recognition by and notification to the
President of their intent. Other non-university persons may address the Senate if a quorum of the
senators vote to allow them to speak.

Section 4
A majority of the members of the Faculty Senate shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5
Two-thirds (2/3) of votes cast, provided a quorum is present, shall be sufficient in the Faculty
Senate to determine an issue or an election.

Section 6
A proxy shall be recognized only if a senator notifies a Faculty Senate officer of the name of the
proxy holder before the scheduled meeting of the Senate. A proxy holder must be a member of
the same college as the absent senator. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 1)

Section 7
The definitive authority governing the Faculty Senate shall be Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised.

Section 8
Within ten (10) days of approval of the minutes, the Faculty Senate shall distribute its minutes to
the members of the faculty. The secretary shall record and report in the minutes the results of all
votes.

ARTICLE VI - SCHEDULE, AMENDMENTS, AND BYLAWS
Section 1
This constitution shall go into effect immediately upon the affirmative vote of the two-thirds of
the voting membership of the Faculty Senate and the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the faculty
voting on the issue by written ballot.

Section 2
Amendments to this constitution shall be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the voting
membership of the Faculty Senate and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the faculty voting on the
issue. The faculty vote will be by a written ballot.

Section 3
The Faculty Senate may establish the initial bylaws by a vote of two-thirds of the faculty
members voting on the issue.

Adopted by the faculty on December 10, 1970
(Amended February 8, 1973)
(Amended November 1, 1989)
(Amended __________, 1995)
(Amended September 10, 1998)
(Amended April 5, 2006)
IMPLEMENTATION CLAUSE: this Constitution and Bylaws will go into effect immediately
after ratification by two-thirds (2/3) of the voting faculty in April 2008. (Amended April 16,
2008)
Amended in November 2011 unanimously by the voting faculty.