

Resolution to Change the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University Senate,
Article I
Senate Executive Committee
April 7, 2025

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Summary & Introduction

During late 2024 and early 2025, members of the Senate Executive Committee undertook a holistic review of both the University By-Laws, Article IX and the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University Senate, Article I to recommend updates focused on clarity, simplicity, modernization and flexibility.

This specific resolution is to directly change the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University Senate, Article I, which are within the purview of the University Senate, and passed by unanimous vote at the April 7, 2025 Regular Meeting of the University Senate.

This resolution includes both “track changes” and “clean copy” versions of the proposed changes. Please note that the language set to be removed is in red and the new language is in blue. There are also certain sections where current by-law language is proposed to be moved from one paragraph to another; in these cases, there will be a note in parenthesis at the end of any section being moved as to where it has been relocated (or been relocated from).

Please also note that this document contains only the sections of the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University Senate, Article I to which changes are proposed; it is not the full by-law language. The full By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University Senate, Article I including proposed changes (in blue) is attached as supplementary meeting materials so that senators may review the by-laws including the new language in full.

We appreciate your time and attention in reviewing this proposal.

This resolution passed unanimously via electronic vote at the April 7, 2025 regular meeting of the University Senate.

Sincerely,

Senate Executive Committee

Laura Burton, Chair
Maureen Armstrong
Karen Bresciano
Bob Day
Jennifer Dineen

Sandy Grande
Bryan Greene
Karima Hamada
Joe MacDougald
Michael Morrell

Morty Ortega
Alaa Selim
Del Siegle
Lorien Touponse

A. Quorum

Background & Rationale:

Specified which members determine a quorum at a meeting for clarification purposes; language updated during the March 31 Special Senate Meeting to be clearer and using active voice.

Proposed Edit (Show Changes):

~~Not less than twenty-five percent of the voting members of the University Senate shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.~~

A quorum of twenty-five percent of the voting members is required at any University Senate meeting.

Clean Copy:

A quorum of twenty-five percent of the voting members is required at any University Senate meeting.

B. Rules of Procedure and Order of Business of the University Senate (see also Art. IX.E., of the By-Laws of the University of Connecticut)

Background & Rationale:

1. Clarification regarding Executive Session rules added, language provided by the General Counsel. Language amendment also provided by the General Counsel.
2. Section removed as it is duplicative of the By-Laws of the University of Connecticut, Article IX. F. Minutes and Reporting which states “minutes of the meetings of the University Senate shall be posted on the University Senate website and sent to the University Archives. The University Archives shall be the official place for filing minutes of the University Senate.
3. An “s” was missing in subpoint 4 “Reports of Standing Committees”

Proposed Edit (Show Changes):

University Senate meetings are conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order as modified by the Special Rules of Order and Standing Rules of the University Senate.

1. All sessions of the University Senate will be open to the public, except that the Senate may enter into executive session upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the senators present and voting, taken at a public meeting and stating the reasons for such executive session as provided in Connecticut General Statutes. ~~by majority vote of the senators present and voting at any session, the Senate may declare the meeting closed to all except members of the Senate and anyone specifically invited to be present.~~

~~3-~~2. The order of business at regular meetings of the Senate shall be:

1. Minutes of preceding meeting
2. Report of the President
3. Report of the Senate Executive Committee
4. Reports of Standing Committees
5. Other Reports
6. New Business

Clean Copy:

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1. All sessions of the University Senate will be open to the public, except that the Senate may enter into executive session upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the senators present and voting, taken at a public meeting and stating the reasons for such executive session as provided in Connecticut General Statutes.

2. The order of business at regular meetings of the Senate shall be:

1. Minutes of preceding meeting
2. Report of the President
3. Report of the Senate Executive Committee
4. Reports of Standing Committees
5. Other Reports
6. New Business

C. Senate Committees

Background & Rationale:

To clarify the responsibilities of Senators, a new paragraph has been added to this section to state that senators must serve on a Senate committee in some capacity. An amendment was proposed and passed at the March 31 Special Senate Meeting to add the word “voting” to senators for clarity. Amendments were also proposed and passed to clarify some language in some Standing Committee charges.

Clean Copy:

Elected senators within the faculty and staff constituencies are required to serve on at least one Senate Committee.

C. 2 Standing Committees/**Special Committees**

Background & Rationale:

Clarification added regarding standing committee membership (some wording moved up for this purpose). A statement regarding ex officio appointments was removed as it is duplicative of information in the University By-Laws, Article IX. Wording regarding membership of special committees added, as that was not previously defined by the by-laws; they now mirror those for standing committees. Exact number of standing committees removed as it is superfluous when they are listed.

Senate Standing Committee charges were updated for clarity with no substantive changes to their purview. The JEDI Committee passed a resolution to change their committee name to include “accessibility” in the title and to avoid references to Star Wars by the original acronym.

Proposed Edit (Show Changes):

There shall be ~~eight~~ standing committees of the Senate, as described in the following subparagraphs. ~~The Senate may establish special committees as described in the By-Laws of the University of Connecticut (see Art. IX.G.3).~~ ~~Senate committees may recommend expression of Senate opinion on matters that are within the jurisdiction of the University~~

~~Senate. Eligibility to serve on standing committees is not limited to Senate members.
(second sentence moved down)~~

Standing or special committee membership should include: ~~there shall be~~ at least one member from a Regional Campus, two undergraduate students, and one graduate student. ~~on each standing committee. The President or the Provost shall appoint one ex-officio member to each committee.~~

Eligibility to serve on standing or special committees is not limited to Senate members. The chairpersons and at least half of the membership of each standing or special committee shall be voting senators. *(moved down from first paragraph)*

- a. University Planning: This committee shall review the University planning processes and consider their potential outcomes, ~~The committee may provide on behalf of the Senate an evaluation and review of~~ and specific issues and activities related to institutional advancement.
- b. Faculty Standards: This committee shall continuously review University policies and practices relating to tenure, academic freedom, equitable distribution of work, rank and promotion, remuneration, retirement, and other matters affecting the faculty. ~~and shall propose any desirable expression of Senate opinion on these matters, including proposals to the Trustees for modifications in their rules and regulations.~~
- c. Student Welfare: This committee shall review the conditions that contribute to the academic success, personal development, ~~physical, and mental,~~ and well-being of ~~undergraduate and graduate~~ students. ~~and available forms of financial aid. It may seek the opinion of the Senate on such matters and make recommendations.~~
- d. Scholastic Standards: This committee shall review ~~prepare legislation within the jurisdiction of the Senate concerning~~ those scholastic matters affecting the University as a whole, and not assigned to the Curricula and Courses Committee, including, but not limited to, academic programs, the marking system, and scholarship standards. ~~and the like.~~
- e. Curricula and Courses: This committee shall review and make recommendations to the Senate regarding all courses proposed for the Common Curriculum, all ~~courses approved outside of the schools/colleges, UNIV, INTD;~~ all 1000- and 2000-level courses, and other courses as designated in these by-laws. It shall review curricular issues within the jurisdiction of the Senate. ~~This committee shall prepare legislation within the jurisdiction of the Senate on course requirements for general~~

~~education of all undergraduate schools and colleges, UNIV 1000, and 2000 levels, and other courses as designated in these by-laws.~~

f. University Budget: This committee shall review the planning, and allocation of the University operating, capital, and other budgets, the process of making budgetary and financial decisions and the determination of priorities among academic and other programs having financial implications.

g. Enrollment: This committee shall review matters relating to the recruitment, admission, enrollment and retention of ~~an~~ outstanding and diverse undergraduate and graduate student populations.

~~h. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion~~ Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility: This committee shall review University policies, practices, and conditions relevant to supporting and promoting justice, equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion among students, faculty, and staff.

Clean Copy:

There shall be standing committees of the Senate, as described in the following subparagraphs. The Senate may establish special committees as described in the By-Laws of the University of Connecticut (see Art. IX.G.3).

Standing or special committee membership should include: at least one member from a Regional Campus, two undergraduate students, and one graduate student.

Eligibility to serve on standing or special committees is not limited to Senate members. The chairpersons and at least half of the membership of each standing or special committee shall be senators.

a. University Planning: This committee shall review the University planning processes and consider their potential outcomes, and specific issues and activities related to institutional advancement.

b. Faculty Standards: This committee shall continuously review University policies and practices relating to tenure, academic freedom, equitable distribution of work, rank and promotion, remuneration, retirement, and other matters affecting the faculty.

- c. Student Welfare: This committee shall review the conditions that contribute to the academic success, personal development, and well-being of undergraduate and graduate students.
- d. Scholastic Standards: This committee shall review those scholastic matters affecting the University as a whole, and not assigned to the Curricula and Courses Committee, including, but not limited to, academic programs, the marking system, and scholarship standards.
- e. Curricula and Courses: This committee shall review and make recommendations to the Senate regarding all courses proposed for the Common Curriculum, all courses approved outside of the schools/colleges, all 1000- and 2000- level courses, and other courses as designated in these by-laws. It shall review curricular issues within the jurisdiction of the Senate.
- f. University Budget: This committee shall review the planning, and allocation of the University operating, capital, and other budgets, the process of making budgetary and financial decisions and the determination of priorities among academic and other programs having financial implications.
- g. Enrollment: This committee shall review matters relating to the recruitment, admission, enrollment and retention of outstanding and diverse undergraduate and graduate student populations.
- h. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility: This committee shall review University policies, practices, and conditions relevant to supporting and promoting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion among students, faculty, and staff.

C. 3 Nominating Committee

Background & Rationale:

The Nominating Committee processes were clarified with regard to Senate Standing Committee and Special Committee appointment procedures. Procedures were added as to how to refill a Senate Committee Chair vacancy, and edits were made to reflect existing practices (such as including co-chairs). A Nominating Committee chair appointment process was also added, which had previously been lacking.

An amendment was proposed and passed during the March 31 Special Senate Meeting to clarify the language and use active voice.

Proposed Edit (Show Changes):

- a. ~~There shall be a Senate Nominating Committee consisting of six members of the Senate elected by the Senate.~~ ~~The Senate elects six members to form a Senate Nominating Committee.~~ The Committee will include at least one but not more than two professional staff members. Each spring, after all other Senate elections for faculty and staff are completed, the Executive Committee will distribute to Senate members a first ballot for the Nominating Committee with the names of the Senators newly elected for three-year terms, and the instructions that Senators may vote for four names. A second ballot with the names of the four senators receiving the highest number of votes will then be distributed to Senate members, with the instruction that Senators may vote for two names. The two Senators receiving the highest numbers of votes cast will be members of the Nominating Committee for three years, starting their terms when their Senate terms begin July 1. Vacancies will be filled by the available candidate with the highest vote at the last previous election in the appropriate class and constituency. ~~Nominating Committee members shall elect a chair on an annual basis from its active members.~~
- b. Each October the Nominating Committee shall submit to the Senate by written ballot a slate of four full professors without administrative office for election of two to the Faculty Review Board for a three-year term. Members of the Committee of Three shall not be nominated.
- c. ~~In October of~~ Each year the Nominating Committee shall submit to the faculty and to the professional staff slates composed of at least two nominees for each At-large seat to be filled in the Senate. Candidates may also be nominated by petition; if a petition signed by five members of the faculty or the professional staff in support of a candidate is submitted within the time specified in the election instructions, that candidate's name shall be included on the election ballot.
- d. ~~Newly elected members of the Senate and all other members of the faculty and professional staff shall be asked by the Senate Administrator in February if they wish to indicate an interest in serving on one of the standing committees, and the preferences shall be turned over to the Senate Nominating Committee.~~ ~~The Senate Nominating Committee shall recommend appointments of all newly elected members of the Senate and all continuing members of the faculty and professional staff to a Senate Committee. In the spring semester, these members will be given an opportunity to indicate their interest in serving on a specific committee, and the preferences shall be turned over to the Senate Nominating Committee.~~ ~~The committee shall submit to the April meeting of the Senate its recommendations as to the chairpersons and members of the standing committees for the ensuing year (the number of nominees for each committee constituting a recommendation~~

~~as to the number of members of that committee) and such nominations shall be included in the minutes of the Senate.~~ Committee Co-Chairs shall be allowed. Each year the Nominating Committee shall solicit for its consideration names of students from the Presidents of the Undergraduate Student Government of Storrs, the Associated Student Government of Avery Point, the Undergraduate Student Government of Hartford, the Student Government Association of Stamford, the Associated Student Government of Waterbury, and the Graduate Student Senate. ~~The chairpersons and at least half of the membership of each standing committee wshall be senators (moved to Section C.2).~~

If any standing committee chairperson shall become vacant, the Senate Nominating Committee shall present a nomination to the Senate to fill the vacancy. The same procedure shall be followed to designate an acting chairperson when it is known that the chairperson of a committee will be absent from the University for a period of time (moved up from below, C.4).

If it judges that the remaining number of members is insufficient to perform the work of the committee, the Nominating committee shall present its recommendations to the Senate. Appointees may serve in an interim capacity until such time as the Senate may vote on the recommendations.

The Nominating Committee, with the approval of the Senate Executive Committee, may appoint the members and chairs of special committees and report such appointments to the Senate in a timely fashion.

Clean Copy:

a. The Senate elects six members to form a Senate Nominating Committee. The Committee will include at least one but not more than two professional staff members. Each spring, after all other Senate elections for faculty and staff are completed, the Executive Committee will distribute to Senate members a first ballot for the Nominating Committee with the names of the Senators newly elected for three-year terms, and the instructions that Senators may vote for four names. A second ballot with the names of the four senators receiving the highest number of votes will then be distributed to Senate members, with the instruction that Senators may vote for two names. The two Senators receiving the highest numbers of votes cast will be members of the Nominating Committee for three years, starting their terms when their Senate terms begin July 1. Vacancies will be filled by the available candidate with the highest vote at the last previous election in the appropriate class and constituency. Nominating Committee members shall elect a chair on an annual basis from its active members.

b. Each October the Nominating Committee shall submit to the Senate by written ballot a slate of four full professors without administrative office for election of two to the Faculty Review Board for a three-year term. Members of the Committee of Three shall not be nominated.

c. Each year the Nominating Committee shall submit to the faculty and to the professional staff slates composed of at least two nominees for each At-large seat to be filled in the Senate. Candidates may also be nominated by petition; if a petition signed by five members of the faculty or the professional staff in support of a candidate is submitted within the time specified in the election instructions, that candidate's name shall be included on the election ballot.

d. The Senate Nominating Committee shall recommend appointments of all newly elected members of the Senate and all continuing members of the faculty and professional staff to a Senate Committee. In the spring semester, these members will be given an opportunity to indicate their interest in serving on a specific committee, and the preferences shall be turned over to the Senate Nominating Committee. Co-Chairs shall be allowed. Each year the Nominating Committee shall solicit for its consideration names of students from the Presidents of Storrs, the Associated Student Government of Avery Point, the Undergraduate Student Government of Hartford, the Student Government Association of Stamford, the Associated Student Government of Waterbury, and the Graduate Student Senate.

If any standing committee chairperson shall become vacant, the Senate Nominating Committee shall present a nomination to the Senate to fill the vacancy. The same procedure shall be followed to designate an acting chairperson when it is known that the chairperson of a committee will be absent from the University for a period of time (moved up from below, C.4).

If it judges that the remaining number of members is insufficient to perform the work of the committee, the Nominating committee shall present its recommendations to the Senate. Appointees may serve in an interim capacity until such time as the Senate may vote on the recommendations.

The Nominating Committee, with the approval of the Senate Executive Committee, may appoint the members and chairs of special committees and report such appointments to the Senate in a timely fashion.

C. 4 Standing Committee Elections

Background & Rationale:

Clarification added to better reflect existing appointment practices and procedures in case of member or chair vacancy was moved to the previous section (Nominating Committee). An amendment was proposed and passed at the March 31 Special Senate meeting for clarity and active voice.

Proposed Edit (Show Changes):

The Senate shall vote on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee at the last regular meeting of each academic year. At this meeting, nominations for committee members and chairs may also be made from the floor by voting senators. A formal vote is required if nominations for chairs are made from the floor. Elected committees and chairpersons take office from July 1 following this election through June 30 the next year.

~~The Senate, annually at its May meeting, shall vote on the standing committee membership slate presented by the Nominating Committee for the following academic year. Voting senators may also make nominations for committee members and chairs from the floor. If there are any nominations from the floor for chairs, a formal count shall take place: determine the number of members of each standing committee for the ensuing year, shall elect the members of such committees, and shall designate the chairperson of each such committee. Before such elections, nominations for committee members and chairpersons, in addition to those submitted by the Senate Nominating Committee, may be made from the floor. If there are more nominees for any committee than the number of places to be filled or if there is more than one nomination for the chairpersonship of any committee, the election of that committee or of that committee chairperson shall take place by secret ballot.~~

~~The newly elected committees and their chairpersons shall take office on July 1 following their election. If any committee chairpersonship shall become vacant, the Senate Nominating Committee shall present a nomination to fill the vacancy not later than the next regular meeting of the Senate, and after the opportunity for nominations from the floor the Senate shall fill the vacancy. The same procedure shall be followed to designate an acting chairperson when it is known that the chairperson of a committee will be absent from the University for a period as long as a semester. The Senate may similarly fill vacancies in the membership of any committee if it judges that the remaining number of members is insufficient to perform the work of the committee. In such cases the Nominating Committee shall be given the opportunity to present nominations (*this entire section moved up to 3.d*).~~

Clean Copy:

The Senate shall vote on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee at the last regular meeting of each academic year. At this meeting, nominations for committee members and chairs may also be made from the floor by voting senators. A formal vote is required if nominations for chairs are made from the floor. Elected committees and chairpersons take office from July 1 following this election through June 30 the next year.

D. Removal from Senate Service

Background & Rationale:

While performing benchmarking for this report, it was found that most University governance structures include processes for removal. The intention is to have a safeguard in place in case a situation arises where these processes are necessary.

An amendment was proposed by the Nominating Committee and passed at the March 31 Special Meeting regarding exactly what style of voting is required for the Nominating Committee as a part of this process.

Clean Copy:

Any member of the University Senate may be removed for good cause. Good cause includes, but is not limited to:

1. Non-participation in Senate or committee activities, including repeated absences.
 2. Actions that undermine the effectiveness or integrity of the Senate or its committees.
 3. Any conduct detrimental to the fulfillment of the Senate's responsibilities.
- a. Initiation of Removal: Removal proceedings may be initiated by: a recommendation from the Senate Executive Committee or a recommendation from a Senate Committee or a petition signed by at least 25% of the voting members of the constituency represented by the Senator of concern. Recommendations must be sent in writing to the Nominating Committee.
- b. Investigation: The Nominating Committee shall notify the member in question in writing of the initiation of the removal process, the reasons for possible removal, and how to submit a response.

The member shall be allowed to present their response and address the potential removal before the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall decide [by two-thirds](#)

[majority vote](#) of all committee members whether to recommend removal, and will inform the member of this decision, including its rationale.

c. Decision: In the case of a recommendation for removal, the member will be given the opportunity to accept the recommendation and the removal process is complete.

If the Nominating Committee recommends removal, and the member does not accept the recommendation, the member may appeal to the University Senate at its next regular meeting. In such cases, the Nominating Committee will inform the Senate in a written report of its decision and rationale. The member shall be allowed to present their response and address the potential removal before the University Senate. A two-thirds vote of those present and voting shall be required to approve the removal of the member.

~~D~~. E. Changes in By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations

Background & Rationale:

Additional language was added for clarification that any recommendation to change Article IX of the By-Laws of the University of Connecticut which originate from the Senate body must abide by the same By-Law rules as motions presented to change the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate.

Proposed Edit (Show Changes):

The By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate may be changed at any meeting of the Senate by majority vote of those present and voting, provided that due warning of the proposed changes has been given in a previous meeting. If due warning has not been given, a two-thirds vote of those present and voting shall be required. [These same rules apply to Senate votes to recommend changes to the University By-Laws, Article IX.](#) Changes may be considered in special meetings of the University Senate under emergency circumstances. Changes approved in special meetings shall be temporary, applying only through the current academic year or the upcoming academic year if approved in a summer special meeting.

Clean Copy:

The By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate may be changed at any meeting of the Senate by majority vote of those present and voting, provided that due warning of the proposed changes has been given in a previous meeting. If due warning has

not been given, a two-thirds vote of those present and voting shall be required. These same rules apply to Senate votes to recommend changes to the University By-Laws, Article IX. Changes may be considered in special meetings of the University Senate under emergency circumstances. Changes approved in special meetings shall be temporary, applying only through the current academic year or the upcoming academic year if approved in a summer special meeting.