

**POLICY MEMORANDUM NO. 207**

**TO:** All Faculty  
**FROM:** Charles W. Steger  
**DATE:** September 6, 2001  
**SUBJECT:** Revision of the Faculty Senate Constitution

Approved by the Faculty Senate on: December 5, 2000  
Approved by Vote of All Eligible Faculty: February 9, 2001  
Approved by University Council: March 19, 2001  
Approved by the President: March 19, 2001  
Approved by the Board of Visitors: June 4, 2001  
Effective: Immediately

The University Council, on recommendation of the Faculty Senate, unanimously approved a resolution concerning the revision of the Faculty Senate Constitution.

Following is the text of the resolution as adopted by University Council.

**WHEREAS**, the current Faculty Senate Constitution requires that amendments to the Constitution be approved by the Senate membership, then submitted to vote to the entire faculty with a response from at least 50% of the faculty and approval by two-thirds of those voting; followed by approval by the University Council, the President, and the Board of Visitors; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Faculty Senate has conducted a thorough review of all provisions and proposed a revised Constitution that is changed in the following ways:

- Increasing the number of members to the Reconciliation Committee so that there will be adequate numbers on the committee to handle cases referred to it.
- Increasing representation on the Senate from the colleges and the library by raising the minimum number of senators from each academic college to three (from two) and from the library to two representatives (from one), and by deleting the overall membership limitation of 40 members.
- Eliminating or restructuring inactive committees and clarifying and rejuvenating the Senate Cabinet.
- Changing references in the Constitution from the quarter system to the semester system.
- Clarifying the role of work groups in carrying out Senate business.
- Simplifying the Constitution and moving operational details to the by-laws for easier updating when needed.
- Adding a reference to staff in the statement of function: *to accept and share responsibility with the administration, staff, and students*
- Changing the method of approval of amendments to the Faculty Senate Constitution from that described above to one of two methods: approval of amendments by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Senate membership, or by convention. (*One-fifth of faculty eligible for election to the Senate may petition the President of the University to*

Policy Memorandum No. 207  
Page 2  
September 6, 2001

convene a convention of faculty eligible for election to the Senate to make changes in the Faculty Senate Constitution. Once amendments to the constitution become effective upon approval by the University Council, the President, and Board of Visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed changes have been approved by faculty vote and endorsed by the University Council and President;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the revised Constitution for the Faculty Senate be ratified by the Board of Visitors and made effective immediately.

The Constitution and ByLaws of the Faculty Senate are available for review at the following website: [www.facultysenate.vt.edu](http://www.facultysenate.vt.edu)

CWS:jcd