Armstrong State University
Faculty Senate Bill FSB-2015-03-23-03:
Changes in Terms and Titles for President and Vice-President

Presidential Action

The attached bill is provided to the University President for approval.

Delivered:

Signature: [Signature] Date: [Date]

Approve: ✔
Disapprove: 
Remand: 

Comments: (please attach an additional sheet if necessary)

Signature: [Signature] Date: [Date]
Dr. Linda M. Bleicken, President
Armstrong State University
Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Armstrong Faculty Senate:
Changes in Terms and Titles for President and Vice-President

Whereas the office of President of the Faculty Senate requires that the holder of the office be experienced and well aware of procedures, protocols, and previous Senate initiatives/agendas;

Whereas the current system allows a President to be elected without prior Senate leadership experience;

Whereas a year of service as President-Elect will provide this experience;

The Faculty Senate proposes the following amendments to Article II. Sections A and B of the Constitution of the Armstrong Faculty Senate:

ARTICLE II. Officers of the Senate

SECTION A. Presiding Officer

No later than the last meeting of the Senate in the spring semester, the Senate shall annually elect a President-Elect by a majority vote.

The President-Elect shall serve the first year as President-Elect and the second year as Senate President. Each year’s term shall begin on August 1st and end on July 31st. When elected, the President-Elect/President will serve the two-year term as both officer and Senator. In the event of a Senator’s election to the presidency/president-elect position, the Senator shall complete the two-year term provided for this office the two years of leadership service (one as President-Elect and one as President) without regard to the length of time remaining in the Senator’s elected term. In the event that the President is unable or unwilling to complete the term, the Vice President-President-Elect will assume the responsibility of the office through July 31st and continue as President the following year, and a new President-Elect will be elected in the spring during the regular election process. In the event that the President-Elect is unable or unwilling to become President in the second year, then a new President-Elect and a separate special presidential election must occur in the spring during the regular election process. Vacancy in the Vice President-President-Elect position will remain empty until a special election can be held.

The President of the Faculty Senate shall be the presiding officer of the Senate. In the President’s absence, the Vice President-President-Elect shall preside. The presiding officer shall conduct meetings according to Robert’s Rules of Order and may vote only to break a tie.

Three hours of reassigned time per semester shall be granted to the President and President-Elect of the Senate.

Amended: April 2013
SECTION B. Additional Officers of the Senate

* Secretary

* Parliamentarian

The Vice-President and Secretary will be elected no later than the last meeting of the Senate in the spring semester.

The Parliamentarian will be appointed by the President of the Senate.

These officers serve a term of one year from August 1st through July 31st.

Vacancy in the Secretary position will be filled by special appointment of the Steering Committee, with a permanent Secretary elected in the spring during the regular election process.

Three hours of reassigned time per semester shall be granted to the Secretary of the Senate.

Amended: April 2013

Note: every other instance of “Vice-President” must be sought out in the Constitution and By-laws and changed to “President-Elect”. Every reference the President’s two year term will need to be changed to a one year term after having served a year as President-Elect.
Summary of proposed alteration to the terms and titles of the “President” and the “Vice-President” only:

- The Senate President will serve a one year term as President (but this will be the second year of leadership service since this individual will have served the preceding year as Senate President-Elect, formerly known as the “Vice-President” position/title).

- The Senate President-Elect (formerly the “Vice-President” position) will serve a one year term assisting the President (fulfilling what were formerly the “Vice-President’s” functions) with the understanding that the President-Elect will become the Senate President in the second year of Senate leadership service. In other words, the Senate “President-Elect” will serve a two year leadership term overall, but the first year will be as “President-Elect” (Vice-President) and the second year will be as Senate President.

- Each year only a Senate “President-Elect” election will occur with the understanding that this individual will serve the first year as “President-Elect” and the second year as “President” of the Senate. Consequently, no separate elections for Senate President will be needed except in the case of the “President-Elect” being unable or unwilling to serve the complete two years of Senate leadership service. In this case, a special Senate President election will occur in conjunction with the President-Elect election.

Rationales

Though the Senate President term will become a one year term, Senate Presidents having served the preceding year as “President-Elect” will be experienced and well aware of procedures, protocols, and previous Senate initiatives/agendas. Essentially, the Senate President will have learned much of what the position entails while serving as the “President-Elect” the previous year. The intent is to produce a more effective system as compared to our current two year presidential term in which the first year is spent to a large degree learning how the Senate works in relation to Armstrong’s President. So far, in ASU’s Faculty Senate presiding officer history, most, if not all, of our past elected Senate Presidents have had no previous Senate leadership experience prior to assuming the role of Senate President. This new structure will mitigate the steep learning curve for those assuming the office of Senate President.

The proposed change of terms and titles will require only one “President-Elect” election every year and no presidential elections every other year, thereby saving considerable time and energy in campaigning and election administration.
Note on First Time Implementation of the Proposed Changes:
If the proposed changes to the President and Vice-President titles and terms are approved prior to the current Senate President's second year of service, then that President will serve out the normal two year presidential term and only a “President-Elect” will need to be elected in the spring elections.
If the proposed changes to these terms and title are approved during the current President’s second year of service, then the implementation of these changes will require an initial election of both a “President-Elect” and a “President”, but thereafter, only a “President-Elect” election will occur.