

Missouri Western State University
Faculty Senate Constitution
Appendices
Approved: 07/19/2017

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY (Approved March 10, 1978)

We, the Instructional Faculty of Missouri Western State University, hereby declare ourselves an Association and do ordain and establish this constitution for the government of said Association.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Association shall be the Missouri Western State University Instructional Faculty.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association shall be to enable the Instructional faculty to participate effectually in the governance of Missouri Western State University. This shall include (but shall not be limited to) the following:

1. To facilitate communication between the Instructional Faculty and Administration, Boards of Control and Students.
2. To make recommendations for the betterment of the member of this Association and of the University.
3. To keep the members of this Association informed regarding the operation of the University.
4. To make recommendations for the improvement of curriculum, instruction, academic standards, and all matters affecting the education of students of Missouri Western State University.
5. To review proposals submitted by and/or to the University Governance Advisory council and make recommendations thereon.
6. To elect a Faculty Senate which shall act as the official governing body of this Association.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP:

Section 1. The Instructional Faculty of Missouri Western State University will include all persons who have a least half-time faculty teaching contracts, teaching per academic year a minimum of twelve (12) equated semester credit hours.

Section 2. The commissioned officers of the ROTC department shall also be members of this Association.

Section 3. A person having membership in any other Missouri Western State University governance group is ineligible for membership in this Association.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of the Missouri Western State University Instructional Faculty may be called by the President of the Faculty Senate, the President of the University, or the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

ARTICLE V: GOVERNING BODY OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1. The representative body of the Association of the Missouri Western State University Instructional Faculty shall be the "Faculty Senate of Missouri Western State University."

Section 2. The Faculty Senate shall be composed of the number of Senate members equivalent to eight (8) percent (rounded off to the nearest integer) of the voting Instructional Faculty of each college or school. For the purpose of determining the exact number of Senate members from each college or school who will serve during the following academic year, the size of the Instructional Faculty in each college or school will be calculated as of spring semester of the election year. The President of the University and the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs shall be ex-officio (nonvoting) members of the Faculty Senate. (April 2001)

Section 3. Immediate Past Presidents of the Faculty Senate will serve as voting representatives of their college or school if they are in the second year of a two-year Senate term or if they are re-elected to the Senate for a new term. Senators who serve as Senate President during the second year of a two-year term and who are not re-elected to the Senate for a new term will remain as non-voting members of the Senate for an additional year, but will not be counted in their college's or school's allocations of Senators. (April 2001) In the event that a non-voting Immediate Past President is unable to serve, the Executive Committee is empowered to appoint a replacement. (November 2007)

Section 4. The term of service of Faculty Senate members shall be two years. One-half (rounded up or down determined by Senate rotation) the apportioned members from each college or school (Article V, Section 2) shall be elected each year. Immediate Past Presidents not re-elected to the Senate will nonetheless remain non-voting members of the Senate (Article V, Section 3). Certain Senate terms will be of altered length in order to maintain proper Senate rotation (Article VIII, Section 6).

Section 5. A replacement Senator must be selected if a Senate seat becomes vacant through resignation or action taken by the Faculty Senate (Article VIII, Section 5). If a retiring Senator's seat is declared vacant after the General Election and prior to August 1, the vacancy will be treated as a summer vacancy (Article VII, Article 5). Any other vacancy must be filled by holding an election within 30 days (including vacations). Election procedures stated in Article VI, Section 2 through 4 will apply. The term of office for a replacement Senator will expire at the end of the term for the vacated Senate seat.

Section 6. The officers of the Faculty Senate shall be a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary. The officers of the Faculty Senate and the Immediate Past President of the Senate shall comprise the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS

Section 1. Members of the Missouri Western State University Instructional Faculty (Article III) shall be eligible to vote for and to hold office in the Faculty Senate.

Section 2. During the annual Primary Election for membership in the Faculty Senate each college or school shall nominate at least two times as many members for Senate as are to be elected from their respective colleges or schools (Article V, Section 2). If more than three times as many members are nominated, an election shall be held to narrow the list of candidates to a number equal to two times the number of seats as are to be elected from the respective college or school. This election shall be completed and results announced at least seven (7) weeks (excluding vacation periods) prior to the beginning of final examinations for the spring semester.

Section 3. During the annual General Election for membership in the Faculty Senate each member of the Association of the Missouri Western State University Instructional Faculty shall be provided a prepared ballot for representatives from all colleges and schools as determined in the Primary Election. This election shall be completed and results announced at least six (6) weeks (excluding vacations) prior to the beginning of final examinations for the spring semester.

Section 4. Both the annual Primary and General Elections shall be under the direction of the incumbent Vice President of the Faculty Senate.

Section 5. The newly elected Faculty Senate shall elect its own officers as defined in Article V, Section 6, at least three (3) weeks (excluding vacations) prior to the beginning of final examinations for the spring semester.

ARTICLE VII: FACULTY SENATE MEETINGS

Section 1. The Faculty Senate shall meet at least once each month at a time and place fixed by the Faculty Senate and may have special meetings called by the Faculty Senate President or by written petition of ten (10) members of the Association.

Section 2. A quorum, defined as two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the duly elected Faculty Senate, shall be necessary to transact business.

Section 3. Within three weeks after completion of the General Election (Article VI), the Retiring and Newly Elected Senates shall convene for a joint meeting. At this meeting the outgoing Faculty Senate President shall preside, and business shall be transacted by the Retiring Senate except for a previously specified period during the meeting when nominations will be accepted from members of the newly elected Senate only for the elected officers of the new Senate; no person who is not a voting member of the new Senate may be nominated for the position of President, Vice-President, or Secretary. (April 2001)

Section 4. At the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting held after the meeting referred to in Section 3, the Newly Elected Faculty Senate shall meet and elect its officers. The outgoing Faculty Senate President shall preside over these elections unless he or she has been nominated for an office in the newly elected Senate, in which case the members of the newly elected Senate shall determine who will preside. (April 2001)

Section 5. The Retiring Senate shall be responsible for conducting business during the summer months with members of the New Elected Faculty Senate filling any vacancies which may arise. Vacancies which cannot be filled in this manner shall be filled by

Instructional Faculty from the same college or school who has previously served on the Faculty Senate. The Senate members and officers begin their terms of service on August 1.

ARTICLE VIII: POWERS

Section 1. The Faculty Senate may make recommendations on matters affecting the welfare of Missouri Western State University.

Section 2. The Faculty Senate shall have the power to consider all matters pertaining to any or all members of the Instructional Faculty and to make recommendations thereon.

Section 3. The Faculty Senate shall appoint all its Standing Committees and establish their duties and responsibilities.

Section 4. The Faculty Senate shall appoint ad hoc committees to study areas of special interest and establish their duties and responsibilities.

Section 5. The Faculty Senate shall have the power to declare a Senate seat vacated when a Senator has been absent from three (3) Senate meetings during a semester.

Section 6. The Faculty Senate shall have the power to alter by one year the length of Senate terms for the purpose of restoring a balanced rotation of Senators.

ARTICLE IX: VETO POWERS

Section 1. Members of the Association of the Missouri Western State University Instructional Faculty shall have the right at all times to challenge any Faculty Senate action which is to be binding on the Instructional Faculty.

Section 2. A challenge of Faculty Senate action must be made by at least twenty (20) percent of the members of the Association. Such challenges (with reasons) shall be made in writing and presented to the President of the Faculty Senate within fifteen (15) calendar days after the Senate meeting at which the challenged action was taken.

Section 3. The President of the Faculty Senate shall send a copy of such challenge (names of challengers need not be included) to each member of the Instructional Faculty and shall arrange a meeting of the Association not sooner than five school days after copies of the challenge have been distributed to the faculty. The convened meeting shall consider the challenge.

Section 4. Not later than three school days after the convened meeting, the secretary of the Faculty Senate shall distribute ballots to all members of the Association asking them whether they will uphold the action of the Faculty Senate. A negative vote by an absolute majority of the Association (more than fifty (50) percent of all eligible voters) constitutes a veto of the challenged Senate action.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Faculty Senate or by petition to the Senate of twenty-five (25) percent of the members of the Association.

Section 2. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the members of the Association at least thirty (30) days prior to a vote on the amendment.

Section 3. Passage of amendments shall be by an affirmative vote of an absolute majority of the Association.

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Upon ratification by an absolute majority of the members of the Association of the Missouri Western State University Instructional Faculty, the Constitution supersedes all previous Constitutions and becomes effective immediately.