

MEMORANDUM

TO Fort Wayne Senate
FROM: Jeffrey Nowak, Executive Committee Chair
DATE: 03/20/2026
SUBJ: Amendments to the Constitution of the Senate--Faculty Chair Titles

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee is empowered by the Senate Constitution (Section III.C.3.a.vii.) to propose amendments to this document; and

WHEREAS, the recent innovation of the “Faculty Chair” titles (see SD 23-30) to replace the outdated “Faculty Speaker” terminology has created some unintended confusion among their users;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate approves of these amendments that are designed to address this problem; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these amendments will not go into effect until the first day of the 2026-2027 academic year if they are successfully ratified in a referendum of the Voting Faculty.

<Table of Contents, Section III.B.>

B. The Officers

1. ~~The Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Past Chair~~ **The Faculty Chairs**; Presiding Officer

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2. The Parliamentarian – 3. The Clerk – 4. The Sergeant-at-Arms

<Section III.A.1.f.>

~~the Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Past Chair~~ **Faculty Chairs** of the Senate;

<Section III.B.1.>

~~The Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Past Chair of the Faculty shall be members of the Voting Faculty who do not at the same time serve as senators and do not all belong to the same major unit. All three chairs shall collectively be known as the Faculty Chairs. Executive authority in the Senate shall be vested in three individuals known collectively as the Faculty Chairs of the Senate.~~

a. Election of Faculty Chairs.

i. Faculty Chairs shall be elected by the Voting Faculty to a three-year term. **A Faculty Chair may not serve more than two consecutive full or partial terms and may not serve more than six consecutive years in total.**

ii. Their election shall be conducted annually prior to March 1, with the term of office to commence with the Fall Senate following election.

iii. The three Faculty Chairs shall serve staggered terms such that no Faculty Chair has an identical term as any other Faculty Chair. Each Faculty Chair must be a member of the Voting Faculty who does not serve simultaneously as a Senator; the three Faculty Chairs cannot all come from the same major unit.

~~iii. iv. The default expectation shall be that an elected candidate shall progress through the positions of Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair in that order without additional electorate approval. A faculty chair may not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. A Faculty Chair serving the first year of their term shall be referred to as the Chair-Elect of the Faculty, a Faculty Chair serving the second year of their term shall be referred to as the Chair of the Faculty, and a Faculty Chair serving the third year of their term shall be referred to as the Past Chair of the Faculty.~~

~~iv. v. Should a Faculty Chair position become vacant for any reason other than the unseating of a Faculty Chair, the Nominations and Elections Committee shall, within thirty working days, hold an election among the Voting Faculty to fill that position for the remainder of its term. The winning candidate in this election shall be installed in the vacant Faculty Chair position immediately upon Nominations and Elections' certification of the results of the race.~~

<Section III.B.1.b.iii.>

The Presiding Officer of the Faculty shall be the Presiding Officer of the Senate and shall preside at Faculty convocations and Senate meetings. **While the Presiding Officer has voting rights, it**

is desirable, while presiding, for the Presiding Officer to exercise those rights only to break or create a tie. In the absence of the First Presiding Officer, the following shall preside in order of precedence:

1. the Second Presiding Officer of the Senate;
2. the Third Presiding Officer of the Senate;
3. the Parliamentarian of the Senate;
4. another person chosen by the method prescribed by the rules of order adopted by the Senate.

~~While the Presiding Officer has voting rights, it is desirable, while presiding, for the Presiding Officer to exercise those rights only to break or create a tie.~~

<Section III.C.1.>

Officers. The Officers of the Senate shall be the ~~Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Past Chair~~ **Faculty Chairs** of the Senate, the Parliamentarian, the Clerk, and the Sergeant-at-Arms.

<Section III.C.3.a.>

Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the ~~Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Past Chair~~ **Faculty Chairs** of the Senate, the Parliamentarian of the Senate as an ex officio, non-voting member; and four senators elected by the Senate. The elected members shall include no more than one from any major unit; their terms shall commence with the Fall Senate and expire with their Senate terms. The duties of the Executive Committee shall include, but not be limited to, the following: