

**UC Resolution 2017-18A**  
**Resolution to Amend the University Council By-Laws**  
**As Recommended by the Governance Task Force**

Approved by Staff Senate:	August 17, 2017
Approved by Graduate Student Assembly:	September 21, 2017
Approved by Student Government Association:	September 29, 2017
Approved by Faculty Senate:	October 31, 2017
First Reading by University Council:	December 4, 2017
Approved by University Council:	
Approval by University President:	
Effective:	Beginning of the 2018-19 Academic Year

**WHEREAS**, Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 2015-16B was passed by University Council and approved by the President on February 1, 2016, providing a formal mechanism of consultation with the Faculty Senate during policy formulation by four commissions: The Commission on Faculty Affairs, Commission on Research, Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, and Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies; and

**WHEREAS**, on the same date, a joint resolution by the Commission on Student Affairs (CSA 2015-16B) and the Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA 2015-16D) calling for the creation of a Governance Task Force was passed by University Council and approved by the President; and

**WHEREAS**, the charge of the Governance Task Force included collecting data on the impacts of CFA Resolution 2015-16B and based on an analysis of that data presenting recommendations for changes to the system of shared governance intended to enhance the consultative role of the constituent groups; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governance Task Force concluded that CFA 2015-16B achieved its intent of increasing the consultative role of Faculty Senate without causing any delays in the approval process for resolutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governance Task Force subsequently concluded that the other three constituent groups (staff, undergraduate students, and graduate students) would each benefit from having a parallel consultative process;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Article II, Section 2 of the bylaws of Virginia Tech's University Council be amended as follows:

**WITH CHANGES NOTED IN RED:**

2. In preparing the case for a new policy or program, each Commission shall keep constituencies (and also, as appropriate, other Commissions, the Faculty Senate,

the Staff Senate, the Graduate Student Assembly, and the Student Government Association) sufficiently well informed that relevant advice and counsel from outside the Commission proper can be brought to bear at the policy (program) formulation stage.

- A. For all Commissions, it is the responsibility of individual Commission members, mainly by means of their cross-representational affiliations, to keep affiliated governance bodies and constituencies informed and to afford the opportunity for consultative referral.
- B. ~~Those Commissions that deal with issues for which the faculty have primary responsibility, that is, the Commission on Faculty Affairs, the Commission on Research, the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, and the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, shall consult with the Faculty Senate~~ All Commissions shall consult with the four formal constituent groups at the beginning of and during the process of developing resolutions. The four groups are identified as: Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Graduate Student Assembly, and Student Government Association.
- C. Upon first reading at the Commission, resolutions shall be referred by the Commission to the ~~Faculty Senate~~ four constituent groups (Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Graduate Student Assembly, and Student Government Association) ~~for the purpose of issuing~~ to provide each group the opportunity to issue a formal recommendation, unless ~~the Faculty Senate~~ the respective constituent group waives its right to do so (see subsection E. below). ~~The Faculty Senate~~ Each ~~respective constituent group~~ shall send its recommendation to the Commission upon the conclusion of its next regularly scheduled meeting, but in all cases within four weeks (counted while the University is in session). ~~(Failure of a constituent group to forward its recommendation to the Commission within four weeks will not delay a resolution from progressing to University Council.)~~ Any additional changes made to the resolution before its adoption by the Commission will be communicated to the ~~Faculty Senate~~ four constituent groups for their consideration ~~by the Senate~~ in formulating ~~its~~ each group's final recommendation to University Council. In addition, the Commission may request additional input from ~~the Faculty Senate~~ any of the groups before the final version of the resolution is completed.
- D. The Commission will send ~~the~~ its final version of the resolution to the ~~Faculty Senate~~ constituent groups upon the Commission's approval. The ~~Faculty Senate~~ groups will send ~~its~~ their final recommendation(s) to University Council for consideration by Council. ~~To be considered by University Council, any recommendations must be sent by the respective constituent group to the Secretary of University Council prior to the date of first reading at University Council.~~ The ~~Senate's~~ recommendation(s) of the group(s) will become a permanent appendix to the resolution not subject to revision or amendment by the Commission or by University Council.

- E. Waivers of the Referral process in subsection C. above may be conditional or unconditional and may be issued at any time during the discussion of the resolution by the Commission. Waivers become operative when submitted to the Commission chair by ~~a Faculty Senate officer~~ designated representative(s) of the respective constituent group.

**WITH CHANGES INCORPORATED:**

2. In preparing the case for a new policy or program, each Commission shall keep constituencies (and also, as appropriate, other Commissions, the Faculty Senate, the Staff Senate, the Graduate Student Assembly, and the Student Government Association) sufficiently well informed that relevant advice and counsel from outside the Commission proper can be brought to bear at the policy (program) formulation stage.
- A. For all Commissions, it is the responsibility of individual Commission members, mainly by means of their cross-representational affiliations, to keep affiliated governance bodies and constituencies informed and to afford the opportunity for consultative referral.
- B. All Commissions shall consult with the four formal constituent groups at the beginning of and during the process of developing resolutions. The four groups are identified as: Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Graduate Student Assembly, and Student Government Association.
- C. Upon first reading at the Commission, resolutions shall be referred by the Commission to the four constituent groups (Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Graduate Student Assembly, and Student Government Association) to provide each group the opportunity to issue a formal recommendation, unless the respective constituent group waives its right to do so (see subsection E. below). Each respective constituent group shall send its recommendation to the Commission upon the conclusion of its next regularly scheduled meeting, but in all cases within four weeks (counted while the University is in session). (Failure of a constituent group to forward its recommendation to the Commission within four weeks will not delay a resolution from progressing to University Council.) Any additional changes made to the resolution before its adoption by the Commission will be communicated to the four constituent groups for their consideration in formulating each group's final recommendation to University Council. In addition, the Commission may request additional input from any of the groups before the final version of the resolution is completed.
- D. The Commission will send its final version of the resolution to the constituent groups upon the Commission's approval. The groups will send their final recommendation(s) to University Council for consideration by Council. To be considered by University Council, any recommendations must be sent by the

respective constituent group to the Secretary of University Council prior to the date of first reading at University Council. The recommendation(s) of the group(s) will become a permanent appendix to the resolution not subject to revision or amendment by the Commission or by University Council.

- E. Waivers of the Referral process in subsection C. above may be conditional or unconditional and may be issued at any time during the discussion of the resolution by the Commission. Waivers become operative when submitted to the Commission chair by an officer of the respective constituent group.

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