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Meca Williams-Johnson/OWG  
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*Approved by the Senate: 11/27/2017*

*Approved by the President: 11/29/2017*

# Addition of Senate Executive officer President-Elect

Submitted by: Meca Williams-Johnson/OWG

mecawilliams@georgiasouthern.edu

478-5252

11/3/2017

## **Motion:**

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Faculty Governance OWG 5-1 recommends a Senate President-Elect to serve a one-year term as President-Elect to assume the role as Senate President the following year. The recommended change will be reflected in the new GSU bylaws. The SEC moves to add the position of Senate President-Elect to the senate executive committee. All additions concerning the Senate President-Elect will be reflected in the new GSU bylaws.

## **Rationale:**

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The OWG 5-1 Faculty Governance met to discuss merging bylaws for the new Georgia Southern University. In an effort to foster an environment of collaboration and promote continual improvement in bridging relationships between campuses, members of the OWG negotiated the structure of faculty senate and revised the bylaws of the old GSU to reflect modifications. A negotiated item in senate leadership was the position of President-Elect for Faculty Senate. The President-Elect would serve a one year term in preparation to assume the President's duties the following year.

The duties of the PRESIDENT-ELECT shall be as follows:

- a. assist the President as a member of the Senate Executive Committee;
- b. preside over the Senate in the absence of the President

c. attend all meetings with the Senate President. The president-elect would serve as a voting member and expected to attend and participate in meetings of the Senate. The position and duties of the president-elect will be added to the new GSU bylaws.

**Response:**

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Minutes 11/27/2017

e. Addition of Senate Executive officer President-Elect Moderator Pirro asked Richard Flynn (CLASS) to discuss this motion.

Flynn said the four motions re: the Senate were the product of OWG 5-1 on Faculty Governance, which contained four members from Armstrong and four from GSU. They 16 | Page put Armstrong's Bylaws alongside ours and tried to pick the best things from both. The first item was the addition of the Office of President-Elect and the second the changing of the title from Moderator to Senate President. Having a President-Elect allows that person to shadow the President for an entire year so they will really know the ropes when they assume office. It also allows that person to take a meeting if the President has to be absent, and it gets two people in the individual meetings with the President and Provost that occur before Senate meetings.

Moderator Pirro added that this formalized what we've been doing informally for years.

Marc Cyr (CLASS) was concerned with how this limited who could come forward to be Moderator. That person must be a sitting Senator. Given our three year term limits, the current system made 2/3 of Senators eligible, but this proposed system would limit it to 1/3 because only those with two years left in their terms would be eligible. He also thought that requiring a two-year commitment could be a disincentive for people to come forward to serve. He thought this limitation of choice could be a problem, but we would find that out over time; he did not think it was a "deal-breaker."

Janice Steirn (CLASS) asked if we knew yet where Senate meetings would be held.

Moderator Pirro noted that item was in an upcoming motion. Steirn said she had asked because this would be a concern re: traveling if the President and President-Elect were from different campuses.

Jonathan Hilpert (COE) had questions about term limits and how those will be reconciled with a combined Senate, but first asked if the OWG had sent these recommendations to the CIC for approval before bringing them to the Senate.

Flynn said the OWG sent five governance recommendations to the CIC, the fifth of which did not pertain to the present motion. The first was a resolution to have a combined senate and the CIC approved this. A second was that the bylaws be reconciled and rewritten, and that was approved by the CIC. Part of that motion was to send suggestions to the Senate Executive Committee; the copy of the bylaws with "all of the red stuff" that was distributed was what the OWG sent to the SEC. The SEC made some revisions which resulted in these motions. The change of title from Senate Moderator to Senate President wasn't something that went through the CIC, nor was the President-Elect; those resulted from the CIC direction that the bylaws be reconciled and passed by both existing Senates. The upcoming motions re: two standing committees were things the OWG liked in the Armstrong structure and wanted for Georgia Southern.

Meca Williams-Johnson (COE, and a member of both the OWG and the SEC) noted re: term limitations that we will increase the number of Faculty Senators for the first year by 24 people, which they hoped would help re: the problem of terms for the President-Elect. She noted the President-Elect idea came from the Armstrong bylaws, and that the issue of who will be on the Senate and travel would be addressed in upcoming motions. Flynn added that member apportionment and the meeting structure were worked out by the OWG and the SEC.

Hilpert (COE) echoed Cyr's concerns about term limits restricting eligibility. He thought this could lead to inexperienced senators becoming President-Elect. He also commented that some of these recommendations went to the CIC, some to the SEC, and that the process seemed arbitrary. Flynn noted that some things, like revising meeting schedules, were approved in principle by the CIC but with directions for the Senates to work out the details.

Dustin Anderson (CLASS) asked how many of these motions were approved unanimously by the OWG.

Flynn said the President-elect provision, change in title, and two standing committees were approved unanimously. He added that membership apportionment was based on the belief that we needed to have representation from the Armstrong campus, so once we're one institution there needs to be at least one college senator from each campus, and each college has two guaranteed senators. But for the transition period there will be 23 senators from Armstrong and one from Liberty.

Moderator Pirro requested that we come to a decision re: this first motion. Flynn then noted that to serve as an officer, you have to have had a year on senate. Cyr noted, however, that the officers would be elected during their first year. Pirro said yes, but service in that office would start after a senator's first year. He reiterated that the motion would formalize the current but informal arrangement, but would limit eligibility to 1/3 of senators.

Anderson asked whether, given Flynn's comments, we were looking at these items individually or as a combined motion. Moderator Pirro clarified that we would take them one at a time.

Hilpert asked Williams-Johnson if new bylaws would change term limits. She said no, but Flynn added that anyone can propose such a change.

The motion was Approved with one no vote. Flynn noted that it was now 5:54 and said that Moderator Pirro could call a vote to extend the meeting. Pirro noted that we were losing senators at this point and we would soon lack a quorum, but thought we could get through the next motion in the time left.