

**LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans  
FACULTY SENATE CONSTITUTION**

**Preamble**

The faculty of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans (LSUHSC-NO), within applicable laws and policies of the Chancellor of the LSUHSC-NO, the President of the LSU System, and the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and A & M College, do hereby effect through this Constitution the Faculty Senate of the LSUHSC-NO.

**Article I. Name.**

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Faculty Senate of the LSUHSC-NO, hereinafter referred to as the Senate.

**Article II. Purpose.**

Section 1. To serve as a representative voice of the faculty.

Section 2. To provide a means of communication between the faculty and the Chancellor and the Administration staff of the LSUHSC-NO.

A. The Faculty Senate, subject to the powers vested in the Chancellor of LSUHSC-NO, shall:

(i) consider and make recommendations concerning all matters of general interest, as distinguished from those affecting a single school;

(ii) review and approve all changes in existing policies or the establishment of new policies relating to matters of general LSUHSC-NO interest when these policies are brought to the Senate for consideration by the Chancellor of LSUHSC-NO or by its own members or constituencies;

(iii) consider and make recommendations on any matters referred to it by the Chancellor of LSUHSC-NO or by its own members or constituencies.

B. Any recognized group within the LSUHSC-NO community shall possess the privilege of presenting suggestions or raising problems for consideration by the Faculty Senate or by any of the standing committees of the Senate. The "LSUHSC-NO community" shall mean those eligible for membership in the Senate as individuals, as well as, groups whose members are all eligible for membership in the Senate.

Section 3. To accept and share responsibility with administration and students in all efforts to improve the stature and to accomplish the mission of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-New Orleans.

Section 4. To communicate with the faculty assemblies of the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Allied Health Sciences, Graduate Studies and Public Health at LSUHSC-NO.

Section 5. To communicate with the faculty senates of the other colleges and universities within the State of Louisiana.

47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91

**Article III. Jurisdiction.**

Section 1. The Senate may hear, consider, and advise the Chancellor of the LSUHSC-NO and his administration on any matter of concern.

Section 2. The Senate, upon its request, may be furnished by the Chancellor of the LSUHSC-NO information appropriate to its consideration in such a matter.

**Article IV. Membership and Term of Office.**

Section 1. Members of the Senate shall be selected/elected by the respective Faculty Organizations by whatever procedure they approve, provided that such procedure yields Delegates who comply with faculty representation as set forth in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2. For purposes of selecting Senators, eligible faculty are those full-time faculty with academic rank of Instructor or above as defined by the schools, excluding those administrators, deans, department heads, and any others whose functions are primarily administrative.

Section 3. Membership in the Senate shall be determined by proportional representation, in accordance with the formula provided in the Bylaws.

Section 4. A Senator may be recalled, as determined by the respective Faculty Organization bylaws.

Section 5. The term of office of a Senator shall be three academic years, commencing at the first Senate meeting following his/her election.

Section 6. Senators are eligible to serve no more than two consecutive terms. [Senators elected to an initial one or two-year partial terms shall be eligible to succeed themselves at the conclusion of their initial term for one additional term.]

Section 7. Approximately one-third of the members of the Senate shall be elected each year. The terms of office shall be staggered.

Section 8. The Senate shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of its members and shall have the power to review any contested election.

**Article V. Meetings.**

Section 1. The Senate shall meet in regular monthly sessions.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Senate may be called as stipulated in the Bylaws.

Section 3. Rules governing the conduct of regular and special meetings shall be as stipulated in the Bylaws.

**Article VI. Officers.**

Section 1. All officers of the Senate shall be elected members of the Senate.

Section 2. Officers of the Senate shall be the President, the President-elect, the Secretary, an elected Faculty Representative (see Article VIII, section 2), and an Alternate Faculty Representative.

Section 3. The officers of the Senate shall be elected in accordance with the Bylaws.

Section 4. The officers of the Senate shall discharge their duties as stipulated in the Bylaws.

**Article VII. Executive Committee.**

92 Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Senate shall consist of the President, the Past  
93 President (ex-officio), President-elect, Secretary, and the Faculty Representatives  
94 to the LSU System.

95 Section 2. The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be as  
96 stipulated in the Bylaws.  
97

98 **Article VIII. Elections.**

99 Section 1. Members of the Senate shall be selected during the first half of June of each  
100 year by such means as the respective faculty assemblies vote to approve.

101 Section 2. Officers of the Senate shall be elected by secret ballot at the June meeting of  
102 the Faculty Senate as the first order of business.

103 Section 3. Two Faculty Representatives to the LSU System will be elected by the Senate  
104 to serve two-year terms (with their terms staggered if possible). The  
105 Representatives may be a senator or a past senator, but should by definition be  
106 eligible for election to their respective faculty assemblies. The maximum service  
107 period of the Representatives shall be two consecutive terms. It is encouraged  
108 that these offices of the Senate will rotate among the various Schools representing  
109 LSUHSC-NO.

110 Section 4. If a senator in the second year of their current term is elected to the office of  
111 President-elect, then the term of that senator shall be extended to include a 4<sup>th</sup>  
112 year during which they, as President, will serve as member-at-large. When the  
113 President becomes a member at large, his/her original senate seat will become  
114 vacant, at which time the respective faculty assembly will elect a new senator to  
115 serve a 3-year term as stipulated in the By-Laws. Should the President-elect  
116 senator be re-elected to a second 3-year term in the Senate by their respective  
117 faculty assembly, that senator will serve as President during the first year of their  
118 second term and the term will not be extended beyond 3 years.  
119

120 **Article IX. Committees.**

121 Section 1. The standing committees of the Senate shall be:

- 122 A. Professional Rights, Responsibilities and Faculty Welfare Committee
- 123 B. Research Committee
- 124 C. Clinical Education, Service, and Patient Care Committee
- 125 D. Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions, Nominations and Elections Committee
- 126 E. Facilities, Safety, and Security Committee
- 127 F. Electronic Communication Committee

128 Section 2. Standing committees shall:

- 129 A. Formulate and recommend actions and policies for approval by the Senate.
- 130 B. Be available to consult and advise the Chancellor and Administration of the  
131 LSUHSC-NO.
- 132 C. Study matters assigned to them by the Senate or the Executive Committee, and  
133 consider written requests of faculty.
- 134 D. Seek factual information and the opinions of interested parties prior to any  
135 final action on a matter, and
- 136 E. Report to the Senate at each regular meeting.

137 Section 3. The functions of the standing committees of the Senate shall be as stipulated in  
138 the Bylaws.

139 Section 4. Ad Hoc committees of the Senate may be appointed by the President of the  
140 Senate or Chancellor to deal with specific issues as they arise.

141

142

**Article X. Amendments.**

143 Section 1. Any proposal to amend, alter, or repeal the provisions of this Constitution shall  
144 be initially supported by a simple majority vote of the Senate.

145 Section 2. Any such proposal shall be made at least one regular meeting preceding that at  
146 which the vote on ratification is taken.

147 Section 3. Proposed amendments shall require ratification by a two-thirds vote of the total  
148 Senate.

149 Section 4. The procedure for amendments shall be as stipulated in the Bylaws.

150

151

**Article XI. Interpretation.**

152 Provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws, whenever unclear, ambiguous, or  
153 indefinite, shall be subject to interpretation by a simple majority vote of the total Faculty  
154 Senate.

155 **LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans**  
156 **FACULTY SENATE BYLAWS**

157 **Article I. Membership.**

158 Section 1. **Eligibility.** Members of the Senate shall be elected from the LSUHSC-NO  
159 General Faculty as defined in Article IV of the Constitution.

160 Section 2. **Formula for Representation.** The Senate shall consist of a total number of  
161 28 members as determined by the following formula; there shall be:

162 A. There will be eight senators from the LSUHSC-NO Faculty Assembly of  
163 the School of Medicine, the majority of whom must be from clinical  
164 departments. Five senators will be elected by each of the Faculty  
165 Organizations of the LSUHSC-NO Schools of Nursing, Allied Health  
166 Professions, and Dentistry in New Orleans. Two senators will be elected  
167 by the LSUHSC-NO Schools of Graduate Studies and Public Health in  
168 New Orleans. One senator will also be elected from the LSUHSC-NO  
169 library faculty.

170 Section 3. **Vacancies.** In case of resignation, incapacity, change of status, or irregular  
171 attendance of any Senator, the respective Faculty Organization shall be  
172 responsible for naming a replacement to serve the term remaining. Irregular  
173 attendance shall be defined as failure to attend at least one-half of the regular  
174 Senate meetings during any one six-month period.

175 Section 4. **Proxy Voting.** Any member of the Faculty Senate may designate a member of  
176 the full-time faculty from his/her Faculty Organization to serve as his/her  
177 alternate at any specific meeting of the Faculty Senate; provided, however, no  
178 person may be designated an alternate for more than one absent elected senator  
179 and no elected senator may serve as his/her alternate. To designate an alternate a  
180 member of the Senate shall execute a proxy form specifying the name of the  
181 alternate, the meeting for which the alternate shall represent the absent senator,  
182 and certifying that the named alternate is a full-time member of the Faculty  
183 Organization. The executed alternate form may be presented to the Secretary  
184 prior to roll call or mailed to the Secretary at his/her faculty box at least one  
185 week prior to a scheduled meeting.

186 Section 5. **Meetings.** The President will select a location for meetings of the full Senate.  
187

188 **Article II. Officers.**

189 Section 1. Duties of Officers.

190 1. The President shall

191 A. Preside at meetings of the Executive Committee,

192 B. Select the place of meeting of the Senate and notify Senators of any  
193 change in regularly designated times and places,

194 C. Preside at meetings of the Senate,

195 D. Appoint the members to the standing committees of the Senate

196 E. Assign each new proposal and/or matter to the appropriate committee  
197 of the Senate,

198 F. Be a voting member of the Senate,

199 G. Inform any constituency when it is necessary for it to fill a vacancy in  
200 its representation in the Senate,

- 201 H. State clearly each issue being voted on before the vote is taken and  
202 announce to the Senate the results of the vote,  
203 I. Appoint a member of the Senate to keep records of any meeting from  
204 which the Secretary is absent,  
205 J. Appoint ad hoc committees of the Senate subject to the approval of the  
206 Executive Committee,  
207 K. Transmit to the Chancellor of the LSUHSC-NO all recommendations  
208 approved by the Senate,  
209 L. Serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee for one year  
210 following the expiration of his/her term of office.  
211 M. Serve or appoint one designate to represent the Senate on the  
212 Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates.  
213 N. Serve or appoint a designate to represent the senate at the Conference  
214 of La. Colleges and Universities.  
215 O. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Chancellor's Executive  
216 Committee.
- 217 2. The President-elect shall:  
218 A. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee,  
219 B. Assume, in the absence of the President, the duties of the President, and  
220 C. Become the President should the position become vacant.  
221 D. Assume the office of President at the conclusion of the term of the  
222 current President.
- 223 3. The Secretary shall  
224 A. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee,  
225 B. Keep clear and accurate records of the transactions of the Senate,  
226 C. Be responsible for reproducing and distributing minutes of each  
227 meeting of the Senate to the Chancellor, Administration and General  
228 Faculty within one week after each meeting,  
229 D. Deposit a duplicate of these records and other papers of the Senate in  
230 the LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans Library within one  
231 month after each meeting (Medical and Dental libraries).  
232 E. Keep an up-to-date compilation of all Senate Resolutions and the  
233 Chancellor's responses to these resolutions,  
234 F. Preside, in the absence of the President and President-elect, at meetings  
235 of the Senate long enough to allow for the election of a temporary  
236 chairperson for that meeting,  
237 G. Carry on any necessary correspondence of the Senate,  
238 H. Tabulate and record the results of all votes of the Senate,  
239 I. Keep a current list of the members of the Senate,  
240 J. Record the names of the members present at each meeting of the Senate  
241 and inform the President when excessive absences occur,  
242 K. Provide an agenda for the Senate meetings one week before the  
243 meeting  
244 L. Keep clear and concise minutes of the meetings of the Executive  
245 Committee.
- 246 4. The Faculty Representatives shall:

- 247 A. Report to the Senate on issues being considered by the Board of  
248 Supervisors particularly those that will have an effect on LSUHSC-  
249 NO.  
250 B. Serve as the faculty's representative to the LSU System Council of  
251 Faculty Advisors.  
252 C. Provide this information in summary form so that it can be  
253 disseminated to the presiding officers of each Faculty Assembly of  
254 the Health Science Center.

255 Section 2. **Term of Office.** The term of office for the senate President and President-elect  
256 shall be for one twelve (12) month period, running from July 1, (beginning of the  
257 school fiscal year following the June election). The Secretary and Faculty  
258 Representatives may serve two consecutive terms.  
259

260 Article III. **Executive Committee.**

261 Section 1. **Meetings.** The Executive Committee shall confer prior to each regular  
262 meeting of the Senate and prepare an agenda for that meeting.

263 Section 2. **Duties.** The Executive Committee shall

- 264 A. Make certain that any proposal submitted by a Senator shall be considered  
265 by the Senate,  
266 B. Distribute an agenda to all Senators at least five days prior to all regular  
267 meetings of the Senate, and  
268 C. Prepare a yearly calendar of meetings of the Senate, stipulating the  
269 deadlines for submitting proposals to be included in the agendas.  
270

271 Article IV. **Elections.**

272 Section 1. **Election of Officers.** The Nominations and Elections Committee shall at the  
273 May meeting of the Senate, submit at least one name for each office of the  
274 Senate except for the office of President, and thereafter other nominations may  
275 be called for from the floor. The vote for Officers of the Senate shall be taken at  
276 the June meeting of the Faculty Senate in accordance with Article VIII Section 2  
277 of the Constitution.  
278

279 Article V. **Committees.**

280 Section 1. **Formation.** In accordance with Article II Section 1 Subparagraphs D and J of  
281 the Bylaws, the President of the Senate shall appoint members to all standing and  
282 ad hoc committees of the Senate. A Senator shall not be a member of more than  
283 one standing committee of the Senate. Each standing and ad hoc committee of  
284 the Senate shall have the authority to appoint non-Senate members of the  
285 LSUHSC-NO General Faculty to serve on its committee. The Senate President  
286 will appoint the chairperson of each committee of the Senate from among the  
287 Senate members of the committee.

288 Section 2. **Standing Committees of the Senate.**

- 289 A. **Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare Committee**  
290 of the Senate shall consider, make recommendations on, and report to the  
291 Senate on matters pertaining to academic freedom, academic fairness,  
292 and professional ethics in any area appropriate to its purview. It shall also

- 293 consider, make recommendations on, and report to the Senate on matters  
 294 pertaining to faculty welfare, benefits, and programs in any area  
 295 appropriate to its purview.
- 296 **B. Research Committee** of the Senate shall consider, make recommendations  
 297 on, and report to the Senate on matters pertaining to LSUHSC-NO  
 298 research studies (clinical, applied, and basic science), space, funding and  
 299 programs in any area appropriate to its purview.
- 300 **C. Clinical Education, Service, and Patient Care Committee** of the Senate  
 301 shall consider, make recommendations on, and report to the Senate on  
 302 matters pertaining to LSUHSC-NO clinical education, service, patient  
 303 care and programs in any area appropriate to its purview.
- 304 **D. Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions, Nominations and Elections**  
 305 **Committee** of the Senate shall consider and recommend to the Senate  
 306 resolutions concerning matters of general interest to LSUHSC-NO  
 307 faculty. It shall further consider, make recommendations on, and report  
 308 to the Senate on matters pertaining to the amendment of the Constitution  
 309 and Bylaws. It shall also organize a subcommittee of Senate members  
 310 who are not candidates for reelection that shall propose a slate of officers  
 311 for election for the upcoming year.
- 312 **E. Facilities, Safety, and Security Committee** shall consider, make  
 313 recommendations on, and report to the Senate on matters pertaining to the  
 314 physical plant and safety and security of the LSU Health Sciences  
 315 Center-NO.
- 316 **F. Electronic Communications Committee** shall be responsible for  
 317 maintaining information on the Faculty Senate Website.

318  
 319 **Article VI. Meetings.**

- 320 **Section 1. Regular Meetings.** The first regular meeting of the Senate shall be held in  
 321 July. Other regular meetings shall be held pursuant to Article III. Section 2,  
 322 Subparagraph B.
- 323 **Section 2. Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Senate may be called by the  
 324 Secretary at the request of the President of the Senate or upon the written request  
 325 of 25% of the Senators.
- 326 **Section 3. Quorum.** A simple majority (15) of Senators, including at least one  
 327 representative from each Faculty Organization shall be required to conduct  
 328 business at any meeting of the Senate.
- 329 **Section 4. Minutes.** A complete and permanent set of minutes of each meeting shall be  
 330 kept by the Secretary.
- 331 **Section 5. Guests.** Meetings of the Senate shall be open. The Senate may choose to go  
 332 into executive session by a majority vote of the members present for a specific  
 333 purpose allowed by law. A member of the General Faculty may “at the request  
 334 of a Senator” be allowed to address the Senate for a specific purpose for no more  
 335 than ten minutes. The Chancellor of LSUHSC-NO, or his/her designated  
 336 representative, or any person not a member of the General Faculty may address  
 337 the Senate subject to the approval of a majority of those present.

338 Section 6. **Conduct of Meetings.** The conduct of Senate business shall be in accordance  
339 with Roberts' Rules of Order (Revised).

340 Section 7. **Order of Business.** The order of business at Senate meetings shall be as  
341 follows:

- 342 A. Call to Order
- 343 B. Roll Call
- 344 C. Approval of Minutes
- 345 D. Unfinished Business
- 346 E. New Business
- 347 F. Reports of Committees of the Senate
- 348 G. Reports of the Faculty Representative and/or Alternate
- 349 H. Announcements
- 350 I. Adjournment

351 Section 8. **Procedures on Proposals other than Amendments.** The following  
352 procedures shall be used for all proposals to the Senate:

- 353 A. Proposals for consideration by the Senate must be submitted in writing to  
354 the Executive Committee at least two weeks before the next scheduled  
355 meeting of the Senate. This provision may be waived only if the  
356 Executive Committee interprets a proposal to be an emergency.
- 357 B. Each new proposal shall be read to the Senate during the portion of the  
358 meeting devoted to new business.
- 359 C. After each proposal is read, the Senate shall consider the question of  
360 sending the proposal to a standing committee of the Senate. Debate on  
361 the question shall be limited to five minutes for proponents and five  
362 minutes for opponents.
- 363 D. If a majority of the Senate present approve, the President shall assign the  
364 proposal to the appropriate committee of the Senate. If less than a  
365 majority of the Senators present approve, the proposal shall be dropped.
- 366 E. At the next meeting of the Senate, the appropriate committee of the Senate  
367 shall make a full report of its studies on the proposal and state any  
368 alterations or objections that it feels advisable to make.
- 369 F. After the appropriate committee of the Senate has completed its report, the  
370 Senate shall debate the question of adopting the proposed  
371 recommendation. Amendments may be submitted from the floor.
- 372 G. The failure of a committee of the Senate to make a report at its appointed  
373 time shall not preclude the right of the Senate at that time to move,  
374 debate, adopt, or reject the proposed recommendation or a variation of it.
- 375 H. A proposed recommendation shall not be adopted as a recommendation of  
376 the Senate unless it receives the vote of a majority of the Senators  
377 present.
- 378 I. A minority report may be filed by a Senator(s) who does not vote with the  
379 majority.
- 380 J. If the Executive Committee interprets a proposal to be an emergency, the  
381 proposal need not be referred to committee, and a recommendation may  
382 be introduced, drafted, and adopted during the same meeting at which it  
383 was proposed.

384 K. The Chancellor or his designate, at his discretion, may submit items to the  
385 Senate for discussion and/or request to address the Senate.

386 **Section 9. Voting Procedures.** Voting shall be by show of hands or without objection at  
387 all in-person meetings. A roll call vote is required when requested by any  
388 Senator. A secret ballot requires a majority vote of the Senate.

389  
390

**Article VII. Amendments.**

391 **Section 1.** Amendments to this Constitution or its Bylaws shall be made at regular  
392 meetings of the Senate.

393 **Section 2.** The following procedure shall be used for any proposed amendment to the  
394 Constitution:

- 395 A. To propose an amendment, a Senator must notify the Secretary of his/her  
396 intentions in writing at least three weeks prior to the next regular  
397 meeting. A copy of the proposal shall be included in the call for the next  
398 regular meeting and a copy shall be sent to each Faculty Organization at  
399 least ten days prior to the next meeting.
- 400 B. At the next regular meeting, the President of the Senate shall read the  
401 proposal and call for preliminary debate that shall be limited to five  
402 minutes for proponents and five minutes for opponents.
- 403 C. For the proposal to be admitted for further consideration after preliminary  
404 debate it must be supported by a simple majority of the Senators present  
405 or by a petition in favor of the proposal furnished by the proposer,  
406 pursuant to Article X, Section I of the Constitution. Without either type  
407 of support, the proposal shall die for lack of support.
- 408 D. Upon a proposal's being admitted for further consideration, the President of  
409 the Senate shall refer the proposal to the Constitution, Bylaws, and  
410 Resolutions Committee of the Senate for study.
- 411 E. At the next meeting of the Senate, the Committee shall make a full report  
412 of its studies on the proposal and state any alterations or objections that it  
413 feels advisable to make.
- 414 F. After the Committee has completed its report, the Senate shall debate the  
415 question of adopting the proposal. Amendments to the proposal may be  
416 submitted from the floor.
- 417 G. The failure of the Committee to make its report at the appointed time shall  
418 not preclude the right of the Senate at that time to move, debate, adopt, or  
419 reject the proposal or a variation of it.
- 420 H. After debate, the proposal shall require a two-thirds vote of the total  
421 membership.

422 **Section 3.** A proposed amendment to the Bylaws must receive an absolute majority vote  
423 of the Senate.

424 **APPENDIX A**

425  
426 **LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans**  
427 **FACULTY SENATE**

428  
429 **PROXY FORM: APPOINTMENT OF PROXY SENATOR**

430  
431 I hereby designate and appoint to serve as my alternate and proxy at a meeting of  
432 the Faculty Senate of the LSUHSC-NO to be held on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, or any  
433 adjournment thereof.

434  
435 \_\_\_\_\_  
436 (Print name of the designated proxy / alternate)

437  
438 I certify that the named alternate is a full-time member of the faculty of the Faculty  
439 Organization I represent.

440  
441 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

442  
443 School/Faculty Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

444  
445  
446  
447 \_\_\_\_\_  
448 (Signature of Senator granting proxy)

449  
450  
451 \_\_\_\_\_  
452 (Print name of Senator granting proxy)

453  
454