SP.21.01 Revision to the Bylaws, Part D.1.c – Senate Executive Committee (Chair and Vice-Chair eligibility)

BACKGROUND
Responding to the Report of the Eighth Senate Review Commission (XSR.19.01), the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) examined its charge and composition as provided in the Bylaws, Part D.1 and considered the Review Commission’s recommendation that the SEC “determine additional eligibility criteria and duties for the positions of the SEC Chair and Vice-Chair” (XSR.19.01, Recommendation #5). The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) presented SEC’s proposed changes to the Bylaws in SP.20.06, which included potential changes to SEC membership, the duties and eligibility of the SEC Chair and Vice-Chair, and vacancies in the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

SP.20.06 was introduced at the July 13, 2020 Senate meeting, and included a proposal that would have restricted the eligibility for the SEC Chair to faculty or academic professional senators who have served at least one year on the SEC (at any time). That proposal also would have restricted eligibility for the Vice-Chair position to senators (of any type) who have served at least one year as a senator or on a Senate committee at any time. At the July 13 meeting, the Senate voted to amend the proposal to make the restrictions on the Vice-Chair match those proposed for the Chair position. The Senate also voted to return the proposal to SP for revision, including removing language regarding various types of vacancies in these positions that would no longer be necessary.

At its September 21, 2020 meeting, the Senate approved an amendment to remove both the restriction that the SEC Chair and Vice-Chair be faculty or academic professionals and that they have served on the SEC for at least a year. With those provisions removed, the Senate approved SP.20.06 as amended. However, the revised language (in lines 44-46) of SP.20.06 also changed the phrasing that specified that the Chair and Vice-Chair be elected “by and from among the membership of the Senate” while rephrasing the other proposed restrictions. This specification was thus inadvertently struck when the amendment to SP.20.06 was approved, substantively changing the eligibility for these positions.

Because the Senate has approved SP.20.06, SP recommends that it reinstate the restriction that the Chair and Vice-Chair be elected “by and from the membership of the Senate.”
RECOMMENDATION
The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends the approval of the following revisions to the Bylaws. Text to be deleted is struck through and text to be added is underlined. Adoption of amendments to the Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

REVISION TO THE BYLAWS, PART D.1.C – Senate Executive Committee

1 c. Membership
2 1. The Senate Executive Committee shall consist of:
3 a. a Chair and a Vice-Chair, elected by and from the membership of the Senate,
4 who shall be the presiding officers of the Senate Executive Committee,

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES
Shawn Gilmore, Chair
H. George Friedman
Michael Grossman
Owen Skelding
William Maher
Joyce Tolliver
Kelli Trei
Brent West
Jessica Mette, ex officio
Sharon Reynolds, ex officio
Jenny Roether, ex officio