NOTE: When the university was young, the faculty’s business could be transacted quite satisfactorily in general meetings and through presidential committees. After the mid-20th century, however, the need for a representative form of government became obvious. Shortly after assuming the presidency in 1965, Ernest W. Hartung expressed great confidence in the faculty and urged it to assume the responsibilities entrusted to it by the territorial legislature and the state constitution [see 1120 A-3]. Accordingly, the Interim Committee of the Faculty, a body that performed limited academic functions for a time, recommended the establishment of a council having responsibilities and authority essentially as set forth in this constitution. The university faculty adopted the Interim Committee’s recommendation on October 20, 1966, the regents approved it on November 18, 1966, and elections were held in the several colleges. The first Faculty Council assembled on February 23, 1967, with Professor Thomas R. Walenta (law) as chair; during the ensuing year, the council developed a proposed constitution of the university faculty. The document was amended and approved by the university faculty on March 20, 1968, and, with President Hartung’s support, was ratified with minor amendments by the regents on September 5, 1968. The last major revision took place in 1986. In 2009 the Faculty Council changed its name to Faculty Senate a more common name used in academia, off campus faculty will have voting members on Senate at Coeur d’Alene, Boise, and Idaho Falls, and off-campus faculty will now be counted in the quorum at university faculty meetings with vote through designated sites and delegates given available technology (see 1640.94 and 1540 A). In 2011 Clinical faculty rank was added and language with respect to associated faculty voting was clarified. In 2012 Faculty Senate Center Senator’s role/responsibility was clarified, staff membership increased to two and the required annual venue determination removed. In July 2013 the Faculty Senate’s membership was increased again by one member to represent the Student Bar Association. The text printed here includes all amendments to date (see also 1420 A-1-c). Unless otherwise noted, the text is of 1996. For more information, contact the Office of the Faculty Secretary (208-885-6151). [ed. 7-00, rev. 7-09, 7-11, 7-12, 7-13]

CONTENTS:
Preamble
Article I. General Provisions
Article II. Faculty Classifications
Article III. Faculty Meetings
Article IV. Responsibilities of the University Faculty
Article V. Faculty Senate
Article VI. Rules of Order
Article VII. Amendments

Changes are to Article V, Section 4.

ARTICLE V--FACULTY SENATE.

Section 1. Function. The Faculty Senate functions as provided in this constitution and in accordance with its bylaws as approved by the university faculty. [See I-3 and 1580.] [ed. 7-09]

Section 2. Structure. The senate is constituted as follows: [ed. 7-09]

Clause A. Elected Members. [ed. 7-00]

(1) College Faculties. The faculty of each college, except the College of Graduate Studies, elects one senator for each 50, or major fraction thereof, full-time-equivalent faculty members in the college, provided, however, that each college faculty elects at least one senator. If, because of a reduction in the membership of a college faculty, there is to be a corresponding reduction in the college’s representation in the senate, the reduction does not take place until the expiration of the term of office of an elected senator from the college. [ed. 7-09]
(2) University Centers. The resident faculty of the university centers in Boise, Coeur d’Alene and Idaho Falls each elects one senator from among its number. Those senators shall have the right to participate and vote in faculty senate meetings by means of available two-way video-audio technology located at the centers. If the available technology fails, telephone conferencing will be used. Senators elected to represent a center have a unique role on senate, which is to provide a voice and vote from the perspective of their centers. That perspective is not intended to be college and/or discipline specific. [add. 7-09, rev. 7-12]

(3) Faculty-at-Large. Members of the university faculty who are not affiliated with a college faculty constitute the faculty-at-large, and this constituent faculty, in accordance with procedures adopted by the faculty-at-large, elects senators to serve with vote in the senate on the same basis as provided above for college faculties. [See 1566.] [ed. & ren. 7-09]

(4) Dean. The academic deans elect one of their number to serve with vote in the senate. [ed. & ren. 7-09]

(5) Staff. The representative body (Staff Affairs) of the university staff elects two employees who do not have faculty status to serve with vote in the senate. [ed. & ren. 7-09, rev. 7-12]

(6) Students. Two undergraduate students, one graduate student, and one law student serve as voting members of the senate, and the senate provides regulations governing the qualifications, terms of office, and election of student members, and procedures for filling vacancies in the student membership. [See 1580 VI.] [ed. & ren. 7-09, rev. 7-13]

Clause B. Members Ex Officiis. The president or the president’s designated representative and the secretary of the faculty are members ex officiius of the senate, with voice but without vote. [ed. 7-09]

Section 3. Officers. Each year the senate elects a chair and a vice chair from among the elected faculty members of the senate. Also, each year a secretary is appointed by the chair, subject to confirmation by the senate, from among the members of the senate or from the membership of the university faculty. The appointment of a person who is not a member of the senate to serve as secretary does not carry with it membership on the senate. [ed. 7-09]

Section 4. Terms of Office. Elected faculty members of the senate serve for three years. The academic dean shall serve one year, the staff representatives shall serve for staggered two year terms. The terms of office for student members are as established by the senate. [See 1580 VI.] Newly elected members take office each year on September 1 or on the official opening date of the academic year, whichever is earlier. To carry out the requirement that approximately one-third of the elected faculty members are to take office each year, the senate may shorten the initial term of office of faculty senators elected to fill new positions in the senate to conform to a balanced rotation plan. When members are elected to fill a vacancy, they take office at the first meeting after the election and serve for the unexpired term of the vacancy. No elected faculty member elected to fill the senate may serve two consecutive terms. After serving two consecutive terms the faculty senate member must wait one full year before they are again eligible for election, or immediately ensuing term, but see also FSH 1580 III-3. [ed. 7-09, rev. 7-12]

Section 5. Eligibility. Every member of the university faculty is eligible to vote for members of the senate representing his or her college or other unit. Every member of the university faculty is eligible to serve as an elected member of the Faculty Senate and to hold an elective or appointive office in the senate. [ed. 7-09]

Section 6. Elections. Regular elections for senators in the senate are held before April 15 of each year in which an election is to be held. All elections for members of the senate are by secret ballot. Appropriate procedures for nominations and elections are developed and approved by a majority vote of the faculty of the college or other unit. [ed. 7-09]

Section 7. Vacancies.

Clause A. If it is necessary for a member of the senate to be absent temporarily (more than a month, but less than four months), the candidate who received the next highest number of votes in the most recent election in the college or unit acts as his or her alternate in the senate with full vote. If it is necessary for a member to be absent for more than four months, but less than one year, a special election is held to fill the temporary vacancy. When the senate member returns, he or she resumes the position in the senate. If it is necessary for a member to be
absent for more than one year, or if the member is unable to complete the term of office for any reason, a special election is held to fill the unexpired term. [See 1580 VI for procedures covering student vacancies.] [ed. 7-09]

Clause B. The chair of the Faculty Senate must declare a position vacant if a member is absent from three consecutive meetings unless the member has informed the chair of the senate in writing that he or she intends to participate fully in the activities of the senate in the future. When a position is declared vacant, the chair must notify the constituency concerned. [ed. 7-09]

Section 8. Recall. The recall of a member of the senate may be initiated by a petition bearing the signatures of at least 10 percent, or five members, whichever is greater, of the membership of the particular constituency represented. The petition must be delivered to the chair of the senate. On the receipt of a valid petition, the chair calls a meeting of the faculty of the college or other unit and appoints a chair. Charges against the member are presented in writing and the member is given adequate opportunity for his or her defense. A two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot of the members of the college or other unit present at the meeting is necessary for recall, providing the members present constitute a quorum as defined in the bylaws of the college or other unit. In the event that the vote is to recall the senator, the member may appeal the case to the senate within 10 days. If the case is appealed and the senate affirms the recall, or if the recall stands for 10 days without appeal, the members of the college or other unit elect another senator. Regular procedures are followed in replacing the recalled person, except that the chair of the senate appoints the chair of the election committee of the college or other unit. During the interval between recall and the election of a replacement, the candidate who received the next highest number of votes in the most recent election acts as the alternate in the senate with full vote. [ed. 7-09]

ARTICLE VI--RULES OF ORDER. The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised govern all meetings of the university faculty, other faculties, the Faculty Senate, and faculty committees in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not in conflict with this constitution, regents’ policies, or any bylaws or rules adopted by any of those bodies for the conduct of their respective meetings. An action taken by the university faculty, a constituent or associated faculty, the Faculty Senate, or a faculty committee that conflicts with a previous action by that body takes precedence and, in effect, amends, in part or in full, the previous action. [ed. 7-09]

ARTICLE VII--AMENDMENTS. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of the university faculty, as defined in article II, section 1, in attendance at a regular meeting, a quorum being present. Proposed amendments must have been published in full in the agenda at least one week before the meeting or presented in writing at a meeting previous to the one at which the vote is to be taken. Amendments to this constitution are subject to review and approval by the president and by the regents.