

Suggested Senate Charter change establishing a handbook committee

IV.E.

The Handbook Committee receives proposed changes to the Handbook that have been approved by the University Senate and the Provost. The committee reviews and incorporates approved changes in new Handbook editions, ensuring that the integrity and spirit of the change is maintained and is consistent with the existing Handbook. The committee is also responsible for monitoring and recommending policies and procedures for future Handbook revisions.

Composition and Voting Procedures of the Handbook Committee:

The Handbook Committee is composed of the immediate past chair of the University Senate who will serve as chair, and one tenured faculty member from each college of the University selected by the faculty from such college. If the immediate past Senate chair is no longer employed by the University, any past Senate chair who continues to be employed by the university shall serve as chair of the committee. The current chair of the Faculty Senate and a representative from the office of the Provost shall also be members of the Faculty Handbook Committee but shall not have a vote.

During the implementation phase of the Handbook, the terms of the membership will expire on a staggered basis as show below. Thereafter each member will serve a three-year term.

Initial Term

<u>One year</u>	<u>Two Years</u>	<u>Three years</u>
College of Health and Human Services	University Libraries	Gordon Ford College of Business
Potter College of Arts and Letters	Ogden College of Science and Engineering	College of Education and Behavioral Sciences
		University College

The functions of the Handbook Committee shall be to:

- 1) maintain a record of all proposed revisions to the Faculty Handbook, whether or not approved, including the source, the content, and the approval authority of the revision;
- 2) incorporate changes to the Faculty Handbook recommended by the University Senate and approved by the Provost;
- 3) ensure that the Faculty Handbook is widely and easily available to faculty and is up-to-date;
- 4) Set a deadline by which substantive revisions to be included in the next version of the Faculty Handbook must be submitted for review by the Handbook Committee, and announce that deadline at the University Senate's first meeting of the academic year.

Reed, Eric 9/27/11 10:10 AM

Comment [1]: Should we indicate that the Senate's Vice Pres is in charge of keeping tabs on the membership and running any elections that are necessary? Should the SEC have the discretion to appoint members to this committee if a rep position remains vacant for, say, a semester? I can see that some colleges might not find willing reps (Gordon Ford?).

Substantive revisions include the addition, deletion or revision of policy or procedure. The process for substantive revision is as follows:

- 1) Proposals for substantive revision:
 - a) may be initiated by the Handbook Committee, by the Provost, or by any member of the faculty.
 - b) Must be submitted by a deadline established by the Handbook Committee
 - c) shall be received by the Senate Chair.
 - d) should conform to the following guidelines:
 - i) proposals should made in the form of texts intended as an addition to or a replacement of, in whole or in part, some current sections of the Faculty Handbook;
 - ii) a particular proposal contains no more than one alteration of substance; and
 - iii) a brief explanation of the reason(s) for proposing that revision accompanies the proposal
- 2) The proposed revision shall be placed by the Senate Chair on the action agenda for the next meeting of the Senate Executive Committee. The Senate Executive Committee shall review the proposed revision and:
 - a) May agree by simple majority to
 - i) include the proposal on the action agenda for the next Senate meeting; or
 - ii) forward the proposal to a one of its standing committees, an ad hoc committee or the Handbook Committee for additional review. Following this additional review, which is to be completed in a time frame appropriate to the magnitude of the revision, the proposal is returned to the Senate Executive Committee for continued disposition as in 2.a.
 - b) May decline to send the proposed revision forward for additional review.
 - c) shall inform the Handbook Committee of all proposed revisions for its records, whether or not they are approved for additional review. The Handbook Committee will maintain a list of all proposed revisions and track their disposition.
- 3) For each recommended revision placed on the action agenda of the Senate, the Senate may vote to:
 - a) Approve and forward the recommendation to the Provost; or
 - b) Not approve the recommendation and may return same to the referring committee with questions, comments or revisions. If the Senate returns the recommendation to the referring committee, the revision process must be initiated again pursuant to step 1 hereinabove.
- 4) Upon written approval by the Provost, the revision:
 - a) Will be referred to the Handbook Committee for incorporation into the Handbook by June 30 of the same academic year;
 - b) Will have an effective date of July 1 of the same academic year.
 - c) Will be referred to the President and the Board of Regents for final approval.

Reed, Eric 9/27/11 9:57 AM

Comment [2]: Why not leave this out for now? Let's see if we get any crazy proposals first. I don't think we have in recent memory.

Kelly Madole 9/27/11 9:56 AM

Comment [3]: Should the executive committee have the power to "kill" the proposal? There is no clear mechanism for dealing with "nuisance" proposals.

Editorial revisions include updates to the organizational structure, web addresses and names/titles as well as other similar non-substantive changes and may occur at the recommendation of any WKU employee. The process for editorial revision is as follows:

- 1) A proposal for editorial revision is forwarded to the Senate Chair.
- 2) The Senate Chair places the proposal for editorial revision on the consent agenda for the first meeting of the University Senate of the next academic year.
- 3) The Senate shall at its first meeting of each academic year review each proposed revision on the consent agenda. For each proposed revision, the Senate may:
 - a) Approve the proposed revision to be immediately incorporated into the official Handbook; or
 - b) Remove the proposed revision from the consent agenda to the action agenda for discussion, and then:
 - i) Approve the proposed revision to be immediately incorporated by the Handbook Committee into the official Handbook; or
 - ii) Disapprove the proposed revision and return same to the referring person/committee with questions, comments or revisions. If the Senate returns the proposed revision to the referring person/committee, the revision process must be initiated again as in step 1 hereinabove.

Reed, Eric 9/27/11 10:02 AM

Comment [4]: What do you propose? I think editorial revisions can be an ongoing process and that we can give the Handbook Committee and the Senate Chair (but not anyone else) leeway to engage in editorial revisions as they see fit, and according to work load considerations, as long as a written report of the editorial changes is presented to the senate. (Why wait a year to update web addresses, etc., if some enterprising Senate chair wants to put the time in?) Perhaps make such a report a "Consent" item?

Kelly Madole 9/26/11 12:11 PM

Comment [5]: This is from the Handbook Amendment Policy, but I think it has to be changed.