

DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES DEVELOPED BY THE REPRESENTATION WORKING GROUP AND APPROVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE

Background: Significant organizational changes have occurred to academic units within colleges including the formation of numerous schools and a reduction in the number of academic departments. Budget cuts and buyouts have reduced the number of faculty at NKU by approximately 100. This effort was initiated to ensure that the Faculty Senate continues to represent the diverse voices and interests of the General Faculty and the academic units where those faculty reside. The scope of the working group was later expanded to include a consideration of representation on Faculty Senate Committees. Membership on the working group included representatives from all colleges with undergraduates, all schools and one member each from a large, multidisciplinary department and one relatively small department.

The work began in the 2023-2024 academic year and concluded in Fall 2024 following extensive outreach to the campus community and consultation with the Faculty Senate. The Graduate Council members voted to keep language regarding Graduate Faculty representation unchanged. Senate Committee Chairs were also consulted regarding the preferred makeup of each committee. The Faculty Senate approved the proposed changes at the January 27, 2025 meeting.

Significant proposed changes:

- 1.) All schools and departments are currently represented by a single elected Senator under the current Faculty Senate Constitution. The proposed changes would permit increased unit-level representation in schools and large departments if faculty in those schools and departments desire it. “Large” is defined as equal or greater than 25 full-time faculty members.
- 2.) The formula for determining the number of at-large Senators in each college is currently based on the number of departments and schools in a college. The proposed changes would use a formula based on the total number of faculty in a college, because the formation of schools has greatly reduced the number of academic units under the level of college.
- 3.) The election of school and department representatives to Senate Committees has been updated to permit increased representation based on the needs of each committee.

Minor changes reflecting current practices:

- 1.) The timing of election of department and school Senators would move to August to reflect the timing of annual retreats where these elections typically take place.

Minor changes in formatting:

- 1.) Information on eligibility to serve and election details were separated for clarity.
- 2.) Formatting of subsections was corrected to fit standard outline practices.