

# SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF FACULTY LEADERS (SECAFL)

## CONSTITUTION

Adopted October 3, 2009

### PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Faculty senates play a central role in the shared governance of American universities, and senate leaders benefit from learning from peers, and sharing information with each other. The Southeastern Conference Association of Faculty Leaders (SECAFL), affiliated with the Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium (SECAC), will provide faculty senate chairs/presidents from the twelve SEC institutions an opportunity to learn from one another and convene for common purposes related to faculty governance;

WHEREAS, the twelve institutions of higher education that make up the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Academic Consortium have distinct and unique characters and missions;

WHEREAS, the future of higher education in the SEC is intimately conjoined with the professional quality and success of individual faculty members;

WHEREAS, an association of faculty leaders in the SEC will provide faculty senate chairs/presidents from the twelve SEC institutions an opportunity to learn from one another and convene for common purposes related to faculty governance;

WHEREAS, currently there is no SEC-wide forum for faculty members' expression of faculty concerns as pertaining to the above items; Now, therefore, be it hereby declared that as of October 3, 2009, the coalition of Southeastern Conference Association of Faculty Leaders (SECAFL) will henceforth exist, meet, consider issues, make public pronouncements, and take appropriate action.

### ARTICLES

#### ARTICLE I. NAME

The agency for the exercise of the responsibilities herein described shall be known as the Southeastern Conference Association of Faculty Leaders, hereafter known as SECAFL.

#### ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The SECAFL shall function as a collective advocacy body higher education faculties in the Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium.

A. The SECAFL may furnish advice, recommendations, and information on higher education policies and procedures to:

1. the public;
2. the appropriate faculty bodies, institutions, and administrations whose faculty or university senates are members of SECAFL;
3. the SEC Commissioner, the institutional presidents, chancellors and provosts;
4. the SEC Academic Consortium housed at University of Arkansas;
5. the various SEC States and corresponding legislative bodies or agencies;
6. candidates for public office; and
7. other organizations or agencies.

B. SECAFL shall also function as a forum in which participating faculty bodies may exchange information and reports.

### ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

#### A. Membership

1. "Faculty body" signifies faculty members of faculty senates, university senates, faculty representative organizations, or the equivalent.
2. The term "faculty" for the purposes herein is defined by faculty body eligibility at each separate participating institution.
3. SECAFL membership shall be composed of elected or formerly representatives of the faculty from each of the participating institutions. No member shall currently hold an administration position above that of chair/head. Each member institution shall have one vote. If present, the chair/president of the faculty senate shall cast the institution's vote.

#### B. Governance

1. Officers
  - a. SECAFL shall have a president and a vice-president to be elected annually at the first meeting of the academic year. The president and vice-president shall not be from the same institution.

- b. There shall be an executive secretary appointed for a five-year term, which may be renewed.
- c. SECAFL shall have a steering committee whose members shall be the president, the vice-president, and three at-large members, elected for staggered three-year terms. The three at-large members shall reflect the diversity of the member institutions. The executive secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the steering committee.
- d. The officers of SECAFL shall serve for one year or until successors are elected.

## 2. Meetings and Rules of Procedure

- a. SECAFL shall hold annual meetings.
- b. Special meetings of SECAFL may be called by the president and/or at the written request of five or more members.

## ARTICLE IV. OPERATION OF SECAFL

- A. SECAFL shall meet a minimum of once during each academic year.
- B. Draft minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of the next meeting shall be sent to each SECAFL member at least two weeks prior to the date of the next regular meeting.
- C. The election of officers shall be by secret ballot.
- D. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of all business unless other rules are adopted.
- E. A quorum shall include representatives from at least half of the SEC institutions.

## ARTICLE V. BYLAWS

General bylaws not inconsistent with this Constitution governing the operation of SECAFL may be adopted by a majority vote and may be amended by a majority vote.

## ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended in accordance with the following provisions:

- A. Any member of the SECAFL may propose an amendment to this Constitution by submitting the amendment to the president. Upon receipt, the president shall notify SECAFL members and

the amendment shall be placed on the agenda as a discussion item for the next meeting and shall be voted on at the next meeting.

B. Amendments shall be ratified by a two-thirds majority of SECAFL members present and voting.