

**CHARTER OF THE FACULTY SENATE OF  
MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**PREAMBLE**

The Faculty Senate, as representative body for the Faculty of McNeese State University, exercises responsibility for advising administration in matters of academic freedom and standards, curriculum, long-range planning, budgetary planning, University organization and administration, and general faculty welfare. The senate shall promote the academic and ancillary affairs of the institution and shall improve communications throughout the University, while at the same time seeking to further the professional, scholarly, and financial interests of the faculty. In order to promote maximum participation of the faculty in university governance, the Faculty Senate will be empowered to have a representative on all university-wide standing committees.

**Article I  
THE GENERAL FACULTY**

Section 1.  
***Composition.***

The General Faculty of McNeese State University consists of all full-time employers with an academic rank of instructor or above whose teaching load exceeds 50 percent of their total work load or who have been released from full time teaching to conduct research. Also included shall be the faculty of special education, full-time librarians and athletic coaches, except the athletic director and the Library director. Department heads are excluded from membership in the Faculty Senate. The intent of this definition is that personnel with primarily administrative duties shall not be included.

Section 2.  
***Voting***

Only members of the General Faculty shall vote in the election of the Faculty Senate.

**ARTICLE II  
THE FACULTY SENATE**

Section 1.  
***Composition.***

Membership of the Senate shall be elected on a proportional basis by secret ballot from members of the General Faculty. Faculty members are eligible to vote only within and for members of their own academic college. Librarians shall vote for representatives from the library only.

Section 2.  
***Voting.***

Only elected members of the Faculty Senate may vote at meetings of the Senate.

Section 3.  
***Officers.***

The elected officers of the Faculty Senate shall be a President, a Vice-President, Secretary, and a Record Keeper. These officers shall be elected for one-year terms by the Senate's members.

Section 4.  
***Executive Committee.***

The Faculty Senate shall have an Executive Committee consisting of the President, a Vice-President, Secretary, Record Keeper and any at-large members provided by the Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall prepare the agenda for the monthly meetings of the Senate.

Section 5.  
***Meetings.***

The Senate shall have regular monthly meetings except in June, July, August, and January but may call special meetings at any time. Rules governing the calling of these special meetings shall be set forth in the Bylaws. A majority of the members of the Senate shall constitute a quorum for all regular meetings. (50% + 1 = majority).

Section 6.  
***Functions and Responsibilities.***

The Senate shall consider all matters brought before it and make recommendations concerning them when appropriate. The Senate shall inform the General Faculty of its recommendations.

**ARTICLE III  
AMENDMENTS**

An amendment to the Charter may be initiated by petition to the faculty Senate of 20 percent of the General Faculty or by two-thirds vote of the Faculty Senate. An amendment shall become effective upon approval by a majority vote of the General Faculty.

**ARTICLE IV  
RADIFICATON**

Upon approval by a majority of votes cast by the General Faculty, and approved by the President of the University and the State Board of Education, this Charter and the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate shall be in effect.

Approved by Dr. T. S. Leary on 4/6/73  
Name change to McNeese Faculty Senate, approved by Dr. J. Doland 9/5/80  
Section 4 change approved by Dr. J. Doland 2/3/81  
Section 1 change approved by Dr. J. Doland 4/8/81  
Preamble-Section 1-Section 4 changes ratified by the Faculty Spring 2000  
Preamble-Section 1 and Section 3 changes approved by Dr. R. Hebert 10/6/04