

## University Senate Term Limits

Drafted by ECUS 1/28/13

The University Senate envisions a university that celebrates an effective system of governance in which information is widely shared and understood, where every voice in the university community is heard and honored, and that actively involves all affected individuals in the decision-making process. Furthermore, it is believed that everyone shall have the right to participate in the governance of the University and shall have the right to be heard, without repercussion, regardless of position, rank, or level of authority.

In response to concerns about access to representation on the University Senate, the members of the 2012-2013 University Senate request that your unit give consideration to the creation of term limits for your elected faculty senator positions. We do not want to impose a “one-size-fits-all” rule for all units on campus. Rather, our intent is for you to give deliberate thought to how you want to be represented.

In some units, the election of a senator is a truly democratic process with a number of nominations. In other units, it involves someone “taking one for the team” by agreeing to serve. Most units are probably somewhere in between. In order to prevent elections being dominated by someone in power, or having an individual continue to serve under duress, it may be beneficial to create term limits to ensure greater involvement by a variety of individuals across campus.

Please note that the Senate is not requiring term limits. Creation of term limits will be entirely up to the unit and will simply become part of your election procedures.

Two examples of how term limits might be applied are provided below:

1. An elected faculty senator may serve no more than two consecutive terms. After sitting out for one term the individual may then be re-elected.
2. The elected faculty senator position will rotate through all eligible faculty members within the department.

### Notes:

- a. A “unit” may be defined as a division, department, school, or college.
- b. An elected faculty senator term is for 3 years.
- c. Senate terms commence at the beginning of the April organizational meeting of the University Senate.
- d. Faculty must have completed at least two years of service at Georgia College to be eligible to serve as an elected faculty senator.
- e. Any member of the university community may volunteer to serve on a University Senate Committee for a one year term (consecutive terms are permitted).