BYLAWS OF THE FACULTY OF THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CPH)

PREAMBLE—The College of Public Health (hereinafter referred to as the College or CPH) operates by direction of and under authority granted by George Mason University (GMU). These Bylaws are, necessarily, supplementary to all regulations, procedures, and guidelines provided by the George Mason University Faculty Handbook.

The purposes of the Bylaws are (1) to promote faculty participation in the governance of the College and (2) to provide guidelines for the structure and processes to conduct the business of the College and to be included in the CPH Book of Business.

ARTICLE I—Membership

Section 1. Definition of Faculty and Voting Rights

 a. The Faculty of the College (hereinafter referred to as faculty) comprises the Dean of the College, the Associate and Assistant Deans, Directors, Department Chairs and all Faculty holding full-time instructional, administrative, or research appointments to a local academic unit within the College or joint appointments with another university academic unit as defined in the George Mason University Faculty Handbook (see 1.3.1 General Faculty with a primary appointment to a local academic unit within the College).

b. The right to vote shall be held by all full-time faculty as defined in these Bylaws, except that only faculty holding a tenure appointment shall vote on candidates for promotion and/or tenure as prescribed by the George Mason University Faculty Handbook (see 2.7.3 Procedures for Promotion and Tenure for tenure-track and tenured faculty).

c. Voting membership during the summer shall be limited to persons holding voting membership in the last prior semester who also will return as voting members in the next succeeding semester, whether or not engaged in summer session teaching, research, or administrative duties.

d. Resignation from all elected offices and committees is automatic when appointment in the College is no longer active.

Section 2. Certification of Voting Rights

 a. The office of the Dean of the College at the start of each semester shall provide to the Faculty Council the names of all persons holding faculty appointment and for each name shall indicate the classification of either voting or non-voting member as defined in these Bylaws. Changes in a faculty member's status that affect eligibility to vote, shall be similarly communicated to the Faculty Council with the appropriate new classification.

Section 3. Faculty Council

- a. The general responsibility of departmental faculty representatives to the CPH Faculty Council is to provide a voice for faculty participation in College governance in partnership with the college administration.
- b. The Faculty Council will elect a Chair from the Faculty Council membership. The Chair appointment will be made in August for a term of 2 years for no more than two terms as chair.
- c. The Faculty Council will plan the agenda for the "all CPH Faculty meetings" convened at the end of each semester.
- d. The Faculty will establish and conduct the process by which policies and matters pertaining to faculty governance requiring approval of the CPH faculty as defined in these Bylaws are adopted.

ARTICLE II—Responsibilities of the Faculty

Section 1. General Duties

The faculty shall have for its primary concern the educational and curricular policies and processes for degrees offered by the College.

Section 2. Academic Responsibilities

It shall be within the province of the faculty as delegated by the Board of Visitors of George Mason University:

- a. to propose, review, and approve, in accordance with University objectives, the growth and development of curricula in CPH;
- to determine, with the approval from university administration and Board of Visitors of the University, the academic requirements for degrees;
- c. to authorize conferral of those degrees upon students who have been

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certified by the registrar to have fulfilled the requirements set for them;

- d. to determine the academic prerequisites for the admission of students to candidacy for degrees;
- e. to determine academic requirements for continuance of students in residence, for academic classification, and for participation in extracurricular activities;
- f. to determine academic procedures and regulations pertaining to subjects such as grading standards, examination policies, and student class attendance;
- g. to determine, in cooperation with the Registrar and academic officers of the University, regulations governing evaluation and acceptance of credits transferred from other institutions; and,
- h. to prepare and maintain a plan for the equitable allocation of teaching, scholarly and service activities that will be components of the individual work assignments of its faculty in consultation with the Dean.

Section 3. Other Responsibilities

It shall be within the province of the faculty operating through the local academic units to make recommendations concerning the following subjects:

- a. adoption of proposals for new and closure of degree programs in CPH;
- b. organization of the College into academic divisions or departments;
- c. selection of the president of the University, deans, other administrative officers, and department or division chairs/directors; and
- d. matters of faculty welfare, professional conduct, hiring, retention, promotion, tenure, and grievances,
- e. developing procedures for annual performance reviews of faculty members.

Section 4: Other Matters

It shall be within the province of the faculty to approve standing rules and guidelines relating to matters discussed in these bylaws, including:

- a. College Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal Manual for Tenure-line Faculty
- b. College Promotion and Reappointment Manual for Term Instructional Faculty
- c. Annual Performance Reporting

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ARTICLE III—College-Wide Meetings of the Faculty

Section 1. Attendance

- a. Meetings shall be open to all members of the faculty of the College. Only voting members of the CPH faculty as defined in these Bylaws may make and second motions and vote.
- b. Other persons invited by the Chair or by any voting member with the permission of the faculty in attendance may attend meetings and may participate in the discussion.

Section 2. Frequency of Meetings

a. The Faculty of the College will meet at **least** once a semester through the academic year. For purposes of these Bylaws, for administrative purposes, the academic year for instructional faculty is the nine-month period, September 1 through May 31. For academic purposes, the faculty on 9-month appointments, are expected to be available for work approximately two weeks prior to the beginning of classes until two weeks after the end of classes, as defined in: George Mason University Faculty Handbook (see 2.1.8 Academic Year Appointments and Fiscal Year Appointments), and the faculty's employment contract.

Section 3. Special Meetings

a. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Faculty Council on the Chair's own initiative, or in response to a petition signed by five voting faculty members. The petition must indicate when and for what purpose the meeting is desired. At least three days' notice of the special meeting shall be given unless endorsement of the call is provided by no fewer than fifty percent of the voting faculty as defined in these Bylaws.

Section 4. Meeting Procedures

a. Meetings of the faculty shall be conducted according to *Robert's Rules* of Order: Newly Revised, except when modified by adoption of these or future Bylaws. The presiding officer of all meetings of the faculty shall be the Chair, appointed by the Faculty Council.

Section 5. Agenda for Meetings

a. The agenda for All CPH Faculty Meetings should be distributed no later than **five days** before the meeting date to all members of the faculty. All members may submit items of business to the Chair of the

176 Faculty Council for inclusion on the agenda, prior to the preparation of 177 the agenda. 178 179 **Section 6. Voting Mechanism** 180 a. There will be a designated voting mechanism for voting faculty at all 181 CPH faculty meetings. The Faculty Council will designate the voting 182 183 mechanism, including electronic and internet-based communication 184 platforms. When motions are disposed by a voice vote, a voting member may ask for a secret ballot. 186 187 b. Records of the number of votes will be maintained by Faculty Council. 188 Section 7. Quorum 189 190 191 a. The guorum for regular and special meetings of the faculty shall 192 consist of a majority of eligible voting faculty as defined in these Bylaws in accordance to the most current edition of Roberts Rules of 193 Order: Newly Revised. 194 195 **Section 8. Minutes of Meetings** 196 197 198 a. The Chair of the Faculty Council, shall be responsible for the compilation of the minutes of all meetings of the College-wide faculty. 199 Electronic copies of the minutes of the meetings will be place in an 200 accessible location to all members of the faculty. 201 202 203 204 **ARTICLE IV—Committees of the Faculty** 205 206 **Section 1. Attendance of Committee Meetings** 207 208 a. Except where closed sessions are specifically provided for by these Bylaws, all faculty members may attend any committee meeting as 209 observers and, on invitation of the committee chair, may participate in 210 the activities of the committee. However, only committee members 211 may make and second motions, and vote. 212 213 214 Section 2. Categories 215 216 a. "Standing Committees" shall be those permanent committees whose 217 respective charges shall be established by a majority of the voting 218 faculty and whose faculty members, except for those appointed by reason of position, are elected by the voting faculty. 219 220 b. "Ad Hoc Committees" shall be those established by the Faculty 221 Council for consideration of special issues. If no term is specified, the 222 223 committee is deemed to serve until it issues a final report or until the

224		Faculty Council acts to dissolve the ad hoc committee.
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226	Section 3	3. Election to Committees
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228	a.	Each Unit's faculty will elect or appoint faculty members to serve on
231	the	e various College committees.
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233	b.	Unless exception is made by a two-thirds vote of the voting faculty,
234		only individual members of the faculty who are voting members of the
235		faculty by the beginning of the proposed term of service shall be
236		eligible for election to committees.
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236	C.	The term of election to any committee shall be for a minimum of two
237		academic years, unless the faculty vote otherwise. Approximately one-
238		half of the elected membership of each committee may be elected
239		each year.
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241	Section 4	4. Committee Chairs
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243	a.	Each faculty committee shall elect its chairperson from its own
244		membership.
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246	Section :	5. Committee Procedures & Reports
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248	a.	The quorum for each committee shall be no fewer than fifty percent of
249		the committee members.
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251	b.	Each committee shall maintain records of its actions and place an
252		electronic copy in an accessible location.
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254	C.	An annual written memo from each committee shall be provided to the
255		Faculty and placed in an accessible, shared location (e.g. Blackboard)
256		at the end of the Spring semester.
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258	d.	Electronic copies of the minutes of the meetings will be placed in an
259		accessible, shared location.
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262		urpose, Charges, Membership, and Schedule of Standing
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265	Section	1. Faculty Council
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267	a.	Purpose: Implements faculty governance structure and participation for
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270	b.	Charges: The Faculty Council shall:
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- (1) Collect the names of all persons holding faculty appointments from the office of the Dean of the College two weeks prior to the start of each semester. Each faculty member shall be classified as either voting or non-voting member. Changes in a faculty member's status that affect eligibility to vote shall be communicated to the Faculty Council with the appropriate new classification in a timely fashion during the semester in which the change takes effect.
- (2) Prepare, distribute, and count ballots putting forth nominees for CPH representatives to the University Undergraduate Council (the committee consists of two faculty representatives, one appointed by the Dean and the second selected by the faculty). Terms are for 2 years with a maximum of two terms for elected representatives.
- (3) Maintain a current list of all committees of the faculty together with their charges and composition, which shall be open for inspection to all members of the academic community.
- (4) Hold and prepare the agenda for the college-wide faculty meetings at least once a semester.
- (5) Document the number of voting members for quorum, voting methods, the votes taken, and their disposition.
- (6) Schedule regular or special meetings during the academic year and as needed.
- (7) Review proposed amendments to these Bylaws and make recommendations to the faculty concerning such proposals.
- (8) During academic years in which the year of the spring semester (e.g., 2010, 2015, etc.) is divisible by five, review these Bylaws and prepare such amendments as may be necessary.
- (9) Communicate between the faculty and the College administration.
- (10) Two full-time faculty representatives will serve on the CPH Administrative Council until which time the charge and process for Administrative Council changes. The two appointments will include one full-time instructional term faculty member and one full-time instructional tenured faculty member. Each faculty representative will have two-year staggered terms. The CPH Faculty Council shall run the selection of the two full-time faculty representatives to the CPH Administrative Council.
- (11) The Chair of the Faculty Council will serve as the liaison to the CPH Advisory Board in a non-voting capacity.

320 321 322	(12) The Chair of the Faculty Council assures that CPH committees discharge their responsibilities and will receive an annual written memo from each committee that summarizes key activities by the		
323 324	end of the spring semester.		
325 326	(13) The Chair of the Faculty Council may serve as an ex-officio member on all College committees without voting privileges.		
327 328	c. Faculty Council Membership		
329 330	a. One faculty member from each College academic unit.		
331 332 333 334 335 336 337	b. Members of the Faculty Council shall be elected or appointed from their own academic unit at the end of the academic year for the next academic year for a minimum of 2-years per term (no more than two terms). Only voting members of the faculty shall be eligible for nomination.		
338 339 340 341	c. The Chair of the Faculty Council shall be elected from the membership of the committee. The Chair appointment will be made in August for a term of 2 years for no more than two terms as chair.		
342 343 344 345	 d. Electronic copies of the minutes of the meetings will be placed in an accessible, shared location. 		
346 347	Section 2. Faculty Development		
348 349 350	 a. Purpose: Support professional development and continued learning opportunities for faculty. 		
351 352	b. Charges: The Faculty Development Committee shall:		
353 354 355	(1) Organize two development sessions per academic year, at least one each related to teaching and research.		
356 357 358	(2) Assist the College with development and propagation of a faculty mentorship program if needed.		
359 360 361	(3) Identify and recommend candidates from the college for relevant faculty awards.		
362 363 364 365	(4) Submit an annual written memo to the Chair of the Faculty Council that summarizes key activities by the end of the spring semester.		
366 367	c. Faculty Development Committee Membership:		

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- (1) One faculty member from each College academic unit.
- (2) Members of the Faculty Development shall be elected or appointed from their own academic unit at the end of the academic year for the next academic year for a minimum of 2years per term (no more than two terms). Only voting members of the faculty shall be eligible for nomination. In addition, all members of the Faculty Development committee should be actively involved in research and/or teaching.
- (3) The Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs will serve as a non-voting member ex officio.
- (4) A student representative may also be invited each academic year to serve as a non-voting member of the committee.
- (5) Chair of the Faculty Development Committee shall be elected from the membership of the committee. The Chair appointment will be made in August for a term of 2 years for no more than two terms as chair.
- d. Schedule regular meetings during the academic year and as needed during the academic year.
- e. Electronic copies of the minutes of the meetings will be placed in an accessible, shared location.

Section 3. Curriculum Committee

- a. Purpose: Oversees the standards, policies, and procedures for implementing and changing all curricula offered by the College.
- b. Charge: The Curriculum Committee shall:
 - (1) Regularly evaluate the CPH academic curricula brought to the committee by units;
 - (2) Assist academic units in developing new academic programs and concentrations;
 - (3) Approve new academic programs and concentrations, and modifications to existing programs and concentrations;
 - (4) Review and approve changes to curriculum as proposed by the academic units.

415 416 417 418	(5) Recommend proposed changes in the CPH curriculum to appropriate university bodies at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.
419 420 421 422	(6) Submit an annual written memo to the Chair of the Faculty Council that summarizes key activities by the end of the spring semester.
423 424	c. Curriculum Committee Membership:
425 426 427	(1) One faculty member from each College academic unit.
428 429 430 431 432	(2) Members of the Curriculum Committee shall be elected or appointed from their own academic unit at the end of the academic year for the next academic year for a minimum of 2- years per term (no more than two terms). Only voting members of the faculty shall be eligible for nomination.
433 434 435	(3) The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will serve as a non-voting member ex officio.
436 437 438	(4) Two student non-voting members (one graduate and one undergraduate)
439 440 441 442 443	(5) The chair of the Curriculum Committee shall be elected from the voting membership of the committee. The Chair appointment will be made in August for a term of 2 years for no more than two terms as chair.
444 445 446	f. Schedule monthly meetings during the academic year and as needed during the academic year.
447 448 449 450	 d. Electronic copies of the minutes of the meetings will be placed in an accessible, shared location.
451 452 453	Section 4. Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal (PTR) Committee
454 455 456	a. Purpose: Review units' candidates for promotion, and/or tenure and make recommendations to the Dean of the College. Support academic units' activities related to promotion and tenure.
457 458 459	b. Charge: The Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal Committee shall:
409 400	(1) Review the relevant data of each units' candidate(s) for

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promotion and/or tenure including the candidate's dossier forwarded from the academic unit, for completion and compliance to University procedures. Provide the second level of review for tenure-track and tenured candidates seeking promotion and /or tenure.

- (2) Ensure each College unit has specified criteria and a process for: satisfactory and unsatisfactory annual performance reviews; promotion and/or tenure review; and post-tenure review.
- (3) Review and amend the College's specified criteria and a process for: satisfactory and unsatisfactory annual performance review; promotion and/or tenure review; and post-tenure review.
- (4) Convene an ad-hoc committee to review and amend the Term Promotion Policy and Procedure during academic years in which the year of the spring semester is divisible by five or as needed. Membership should include one term faculty from each academic unit. If a department does not have a term faculty member, tenured or tenure-track faculty are not eligible.
- (5) Develop other such policies and processes as may be required to comply with University policies and processes related to annual performance review, promotion and/or tenure review, and post-tenure review.
- (6) Submit an annual written memo to the Chair of the Faculty Council that summarizes key activities in aggregate by the end of the spring semester.

c. PTR Committee Membership:

- (1) One tenured faculty from each academic unit.
- (2) Members of Promotion, Tenure and Renewal Committee shall be elected or appointed from their own academic unit at the end of the academic year for the next academic year for a minimum of 2-years per term. Membership can include members from outside the College who are elected in the same manner as other members of the committee
- (3) Excluded from membership on the Promotion, and Tenure Committee shall be the Dean of the College, the Associate/ Assistant Deans, Department Chairs and any member of the faculty who shall be a candidate for promotion during the relevant year.

507 508 509 510	(4) The faculty member from the same academic unit to which the candidate belongs, may not vote on that candidate. However, the faculty member from the same academic unit may be present during discussions concerning the candidate's package.
511 512 513 514 515	(5) Chair of the Promotion, Tenure and Reappointment Committee shall be elected from the membership of the committee. The Chair appointment will be made in August for a term of 2 years for no more than two terms as chair.
516 517	d. PTR Committee Meetings
518 519 520 521 522	(1) Schedule regular meetings during the academic year and as needed. In addition, PTR meetings are restricted to members, unless requested by the committee, during any period during which dossiers are actively under review by the Committee.
523 524 525 526 527 528	(2) the PTR Committee shall meet in closed session to consider candidates for promotion, tenure, and reappointment. The time of the closed session(s) shall be determined unanimously by the Committee.
529 530 531	(3) Electronic copies of the minutes of the meetings will be placed in an accessible, shared, and secure location.
532 533	Section 5. Student Affairs Committee
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535 536 537	 Purpose: Concerned with selection of students eligible for scholarship, awards, grants provided by the College and the University.
538 539	b. Charges: The Student Affairs Committee shall:
540 541 542	(1) Review all scholarship/awards/grants offered by the College and other pertinent organizations to determine student eligibility.
543 544 545	(2) Make recommendations of student candidates to receive scholarships/awards/grants from the College or other sources.
546 547 548	(3) Submit an annual written memo to the Chair of the Faculty Council that summarizes key activities by the end of the spring semester.
549 550 551	c. Student Affairs Committee Membership:
552	(1) One faculty member from each academic unit.

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- (2) Members of the Student Affairs Committee shall be elected or appointed from their own academic unit at the end of the academic year for the next academic year for a minimum of 2years per term (no more than two terms). Only voting members of the faculty shall be eligible for nomination.
- (3) The Associate Dean of Student Affairs will serve as a non-voting member *ex officio*.
- (4) One representative of the CPH Development Office will serve as a non-voting liaison to the committee, serving to blind and organize applications for the committee and represent donor intentions when any questions arise.
- (5) Two student representatives (graduate and undergraduate)
- (6) Chair of the Student Affairs Committee shall be elected from the membership of the committee. The Chair appointment will be made in August for a term of 2 years for no more than two terms as chair.
- g. Schedule monthly meetings during the academic year and as needed during the academic year.
- e. Electronic copies of the minutes of the meetings will be placed in an accessible, shared location.

Section 6. Grievance Committee

- a. Purpose: To address grievances, as defined in the George Mason University Faculty Handbook (see 2.11.2 Grievances), that are presented by CPH faculty.
- b. Charges: The Grievance Committee shall:
 - (1) Assist in conflict resolution between faculty or between faculty and unit administrators.
 - Grievances against fellow CPH faculty members and academic administrators below the level of Dean are heard by the CPH Grievance Committee.
 - Grievances against academic administrators at or above the level of Dean are heard by the University Grievance Committee.

(2) Grievances will be investigated in a fair, timely and professional manner concerning (i) alleged violations of academic freedom; (ii) other conditions of employment, such as work assignments, salaries, facilities, and support services; and (iii) charges of unprofessional or unethical conduct.

The following procedures apply to all grievances:

- (1) If a grievance cannot be resolved at the unit level, the faculty member(s) involved submits the grievance to the Committee Secretary for closed discussion during the next general Committee meeting.
- (2) Before the grievance is considered, the Committee must conclude that the petitioner's case appears to have merit.
- (3) If such a case is made and the grievance is against a fellow faculty member, the Committee will investigate the facts of the case and determine an appropriate resolution. The Committee's decision regarding this grievance is final.
- (4) If the grievance is against a unit administrator, the Committee will investigate the facts of the case and recommend a resolution, which is then forwarded to the Dean of the College, whose decision is final.
- (5) In cases of alleged violations of academic freedom, the faculty of the college/school acts on its grievance committee's recommendation by formal vote, the outcome of which is final.
- c. Grievance Committee Membership:
 - (1) One faculty member from each College academic unit.
 - (2) Members of the Grievance Committee shall be elected or appointed from their own academic unit at the end of the academic year for the next academic year for a minimum of 2years per term (no more than two terms). Only voting members of the faculty shall be eligible for nomination.
 - (3) Chair of the Grievance Committee shall be elected from the membership of the committee. The Chair appointment will be made in August for a term of 2 years for no more than two terms as chair.

645 646	 Schedule meetings once at the beginning of each academic year and as needed thereafter.
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648	d. Electronic copies of the minutes of the meetings will be placed in an
649	accessible, shared, and secure location with identifying or sensitive
650	discussion redacted or removed.
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653	Section 7. CPH Research Committee
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655	a. Purpose: To support research activities and research collaborations
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658	b. Charges: The Research Committee shall:
659	b. Charges. The Research Committee shall.
660	(1) Organize the annual Celebration of Scholarship event in the
661	spring semester.
662	Spring Schlester.
663	(2) Assist in the dissemination of faculty research activities
664	throughout the College, the University and local community.
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666	(3) Advise the Dean and others on matters pertaining to
667	policies and procedures intended to promote research
668	activities throughout the College and University.
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670	(4) Work with the Associate Dean of Research to offer support for
671	pre-submission grant review and professional development
672	opportunities.
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674	(5) Submit an annual written memo to the Chair of the Faculty
675	Council that summarizes key activities by the end of the spring
676	semester.
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679	c. CPH Research Committee Membership:
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683	(2) Members of the Research Committee shall be elected or
684	appointed from their own academic unit at the end of the
685	academic year for the next academic year for a minimum of 2-
686	years per term (no more than two terms). Only voting members
687	of the faculty shall be eligible for nomination.
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689	(3) The Associate Dean for Research will serve as a non-voting
690	member ex officio.

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- (4) Chair of the Research Committee shall be elected from the membership of the committee. The Chair appointment will be made in August for a term of 2 years for no more than two terms as chair.
- d. Schedule regular meetings during the academic year and as needed during the academic year.
- e. Electronic copies of the minutes of the meetings will be placed in an accessible, shared location.

ARTICLE VI—Faculty Senate

Section 1. Election & Membership

- a. The requisite number of College representatives to the Faculty Senate shall be elected in the method prescribed for the election of committee members.
- b. If CPH is allocated less senators than number of units (based on the full-time equivalent size of the instructional faculty within the College), units will be pooled together. Allocations between and among units shall be proportional to the size of unit(s) and reviewed every 4 years.
- c. Senators shall serve for staggered terms of three years commencing with the beginning of the academic year following their election.
- d. In compliance with the Charter and Bylaws of the George Mason University Faculty Senate, only full-time faculty members holding tenure or a probationary appointment at the rank of assistant professor, associate professor, or professor who, at the beginning of the Senate term, have held full-time appointment at George Mason University for at least one year shall be eligible for nomination.

ARTICLE VII—Amendments

Section 1. Procedures

All motions to amend these Bylaws shall be:

a. Submitted in writing to the Chair of the Faculty Council and placed before the faculty at least 30 days before the meeting at which they will be considered. Proposed amendments at a regular or special meeting of the faculty will be included in and attached to the meeting agenda.

- b. Two readings of the bylaws are required before a vote is taken. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing by CPH faculty before the 2nd reading of the bylaws meeting for consideration.
- c. Following the 2nd reading of the bylaws, an electronic vote shall be open for a two-week period on whether to adopt the revised bylaws. A two-thirds majority of voting faculty is needed for approval.

Section 2. Process

- a. Amendments to these bylaws shall be adopted immediately after a two thirds majority of CPH faculty respondents have voted in favor of the revised bylaws.
- b. Amendments to these bylaws that are rejected by voting CPH faculty, or the Dean of the College may be referred to an ad hoc committee for later resolution. This ad hoc committee shall consist of the Dean, two members of Administrative Council, two members of the CPH Faculty Council, and two additional faculty members who are selected by the CPH Faculty Council. Resolution of amendments shall be made by a majority vote of this ad hoc committee.

END OF BY-LAWS

Version History

- Adopted May 1, 2006.
- Amended by the Faculty April 21, 2010; May 6, 2014; September 23, 2021; February 1, 2023.
- December, 2024 Edits to align with the recent changes in the George Mason Faculty Handbook