Motion to Specify When a Senator Leaving the Faculty Senate Is Eligible to Return
Proposed by Irina Gigova (Senator At-Large)

**Purpose:** This motion seeks to fill a lacuna in the Faculty Administration Manual regarding how long a person who has completed two full terms as a Senator must stay out of the Faculty Senate before being eligible to be nominated and run for Senator again.

**Action:** Amend Article IV, Section 2D (E according to the 11/10/09 revision)

Current version:

*D. The term of office for Senators shall be two years; terms begin the day after spring commencement. No Senator may serve more than two consecutive full terms. One half of the Senators are elected each year. In the first year, election is for seats of one or two year terms, determined by lottery. A Senator elected in the first year to serve a one-year term is then eligible to be re-elected to two additional full terms.*

Proposed amendment:

*E. The term of office for Senators shall be two years; terms begin the day after spring commencement. No Senator may serve more than two consecutive full terms. A Senator shall be eligible for re-election to one additional consecutive term, following which four years must pass before he or she is again eligible. One half of the Senators are elected each year. In the first year, election is for seats of one or two year terms, determined by lottery. A Senator elected in the first year to serve a one-year term is then eligible to be re-elected to two additional full terms.*

**Rationale:** I ask the By-Laws/FAM Committee and the Senate to consider introducing a specified time off the Senate in light of the recently adopted reduction in the size of the Faculty Senate. This amendment aims to promote turnover in the smaller body on the premise that it would ensure more democratic representation of the entire faculty. Currently, the silence in the FAM could practically allow a Senator who has completed two consecutive terms to return to the Senate after a semester or even several meetings, thus negating the entire notion of term limits.

The proposed change does not restrict faculty involvement on campus or prevent engaged faculty from having their voices heard. The Faculty Standing Committees at the College of Charleston provide essential venues for those who desire service but are not eligible to be on the Senate. At the same time, the measure may encourage faculty members with limited committee and administrative experience to participate in the shared governance of the College of Charleston.

This amendment should not affect considerably the functions of the Faculty Senate. The current practice of staggered elections ensures enough continuity in institutional memory.
and practice. Whatever experience has been lost due to the longer periods of "sitting out" would be offset by the influx of new ideas and different perspectives.

In deliberating the appropriate amount of “time off” members of the By-Law/ FAM Committee and the Senate may consider the following possible models:

1. The period of “time off” equals the total period of service. The Faculty By-Laws already include such an example in the case of members of standing committees in Article V, Section 1B:

   B. Members of committees (Including alternates) serve for a term of one year and may be re-elected twice and then may serve again on the committee only after a lapse of three years. Terms begin on August 15. (Rev. Aug. 1999)

   If the same model is applied to Senate membership, then for each two full terms served, a Senator must take a four-year-long break. This is the model adopted in the present motion.

2. The period of “time off” equals the length of one full term of service, namely two years.

3. Finally, a period of three years off the Senate could be adopted to coincide with the three-year-period of merit evaluations, assuming that the odd number does not complicate the task of the Committee of Nominations and Elections, which is responsible for keeping track of candidates’ eligibility.

Finally, I would like to mention that such measures are already in place at other institutions of higher learning. I include two examples in the Appendix.
Appendix:
Two Examples of Similar Limitations on Senate Membership

1. William and Mary Faculty Assembly:

ARTICLE V
Membership
Section 1. The membership of the Assembly shall be limited to tenured and tenure-eligible faculty.
Section 2. The members of the Assembly shall serve for terms of three years so adjusted that the terms of approximately one-third of the members shall assume office at the first regular meeting of each academic year. A member shall be eligible for reelection to one additional consecutive term, following which two years must pass before he or she is again eligible. For purposes of eligibility, a partial term, to fill out the unexpired term of some other elected member or for any other reason, shall be counted as a full term.
Section 3. Vacancies shall be filled promptly through election by the original constituency.

http://www.wm.edu/sites/facultyassembly/constitutionandbylaws/index.php

2. UNC Faculty Assembly:

Members of the Assembly

A. The Assembly shall be composed of elected representatives from each institution according to the provisions of Sec. II, Par. 1 of the Charter. The number of full-time faculty and professional staff members at each institution shall be calculated as the number of budgeted teaching positions (FTE) at the institution. Using this number as of the second regular meeting of the Assembly, the Chair shall notify the Assembly during the second regular meeting of the number of delegates to which each institution is entitled during the next academic year.
B. The Assembly shall make no determination of the method of election, those matters being specifically reserved to the faculties of the several institutions.
C. The terms of delegates to the Assembly shall range from two (2) to three (3) years as established by each institution, and each institution shall assure continuity of delegation membership by a system of rotated terms. To be eligible as a delegate, a faculty member may not have served as a delegate to the Assembly for more than six (6) of the preceding nine (9) years, nor be selected to a term that would result in a violation of this limitation. However, a delegate shall be exempt from the above limitation while serving as chair or president of a faculty senate or council or as president of the campus faculty. Time spent while serving as an alternate is not counted in the above limitation. If a delegate is elected Chair, his or her institution may replace him or her with an alternate delegate for the remainder of their elected term as delegate. The Assembly Chair shall notify each delegation of any ineligible members.
D. Each institutional faculty shall select such alternate delegates as it deems necessary, but must have at least one.
E. All regular terms of service shall begin and end on July 1 of each year. The delegate list and authorized alternates for the coming academic year shall be recorded by the secretary and in the hands of the Assembly Chair by May 1.

http://uncfacultyassembly.northcarolina.edu/html/bylaws.htm