B2.0
Charter of Academic Governance

Motions for Proposed Changes
Motion 1: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 2.1 Approved

Proposed Wording:
2.1 The faculty consists of the president, provost and the vice presidents holding professorial appointments, the academic deans, and others defined as faculty in E6.0. The president is the presiding officer of the university.

Rationale:
Section 2.1 identifies the faculty at RIT. Since the charter was written there have been additions to faculty titles. All faculty titles are defined in E6.0. Rather than have a list of faculty in the charter that can become outdated, a reference is made to where the definition of faculty is located.
Motion 2: Academic Senate approves the wording in a new section 2.2 of the charter. Approved

Proposed wording (new):
2.2 Throughout this charter and all policies in which the word “college” is used, it will refer to all colleges and the Golisano Institute for Sustainability. All faculty except the president, provost and vice presidents holding professorial appointments at the university level shall have an appointment in or affiliation to a college for the purposes of academic governance.

Rationale:
Currently there are tenure-track faculty who were hired into GIS who do not hold tenure in another college. GIS is the only degree granting academic unit with this situation. Although there may be faculty outside of a college, all other tenure-track faculty are tenured to a college and therefore have representation. It is understood that in the near future, the definition academic units and the effectiveness of representation in other units outside colleges will have to be addressed. The immediacy at this time is to ensure that all faculty have a representation and to meet the requirements of the accreditation for the architecture program.
Motion 3: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to the current section 2.2, which would become section 2.3. 

Approved as edited

Proposed wording:

2.3 The voting members of the faculty at the university, college and department levels include tenure-track (both tenured and pre-tenured) members of the university and senior and principal lecturers who:

(1) serve full-time in their appointments at RIT; and
(2) devote at least half-time to teaching, scholarship, academic administration, or other academically-related duties.

Rationale:
Currently, all faculty regardless of rank or title are represented at the university, college, and department levels by the voting faculty faculty. Currently the only faculty who considered voting faculty are the tenure-track faculty. The revised wording includes all ranks of lecturer as voting faculty.
Motion 4: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section to former 2.3 which could become 2.4 in the revised charter. Approved

Proposed wording:
2.4 Those voting faculty with joint appointments vote in the college or department to which the majority of their time is assigned. A voting member who holds equal appointments in two or more colleges or departments shall designate in writing to their administrative supervisors one college or department in which to exercise all voting privileges.

Rationale:
The revised wording gives clearer guidance where a faculty member may vote if he/she holds appointments in more than one college; the wording also recognizes that the appointment may be in more than two colleges.
Motion 5: Academic Senate approves the proposed wording for a new section 2.5. Approved

Proposed wording:
2.5 Voting faculty, as defined above, shall only vote on matters that fall within the purview of their rank and title as defined by E6.0 or specified by policy.

Rationale:
The addition of this wording provides some guidance for when voting faculty of any rank or title can vote e.g. according to policy only tenured faculty can vote on the tenure of a candidate.
Motion 6: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 3.1. Tabled words to remove in [] and suggested word replacement in italics.

Proposed wording:
3.1 Policies: The [tenure-track] voting faculty has primary responsibility to formulate all [academic and] educational policies subject to final approval by the president and where appropriate by the board of trustees. The faculty in accordance with their responsibilities as defined in E6.0 must identify issues of academic concern, discuss and formulate recommendations, and recommend approval for implementation.

Rationale:
When the charter was written, “faculty” referred to tenure track faculty. Since there are now different categories of faculty, the words tenure track were added to reflect the intent of the charter. In the second sentence, the wording indicates that it is the responsibility of all faculty to identify issues that fall within the purview of his or her rank and title.
Motion 7: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 3.2 Approved

Proposed wording:
3.2 Advice and Recommendations: In addition, the faculty in accordance with their responsibilities as defined in E 6.0, Policies on Faculty Rank has a responsibility to

Rationale:
Section 3.2 again recognizes that all faculty have certain responsibilities, however, they are the responsibilities that fall within the purview of their rank.
Motion 8: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 4.4. Approved

Proposed wording:
4.4 The Senate shall act upon other resolutions, recommendations, or proposals submitted by the faculty of any college, department, or committee of the Senate and pertaining to the academic governance or the general welfare of the university.

Rationale:
The word standing was omitted from before the word “committee” because the Senate at times has ad hoc committees or task forces that may submit resolutions to the Senate for action.
Motion 9: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 5.2. Approved

Proposed wording:
5.2 The operations officer of the Senate shall validate the number of voting members in each college by January 15th of each academic year from a list provided by the provost and shall allocate a certain number of senators to each according to the following procedure. Each college shall have one representative for the first 29 full-time voting faculty. A second senator is added when the faculty count in a college reaches 30 and thereafter, a college will have one additional senator for each multiple of 30 voting faculty. No college shall have more than 20% of the total representatives or fewer than one representative, not counting the representatives of the Deans Council.

Rationale:
Colleges and academic units have been created with smaller numbers of faculty than in the past. The change in section 5.2 is stating that the smaller units should begin with one senator and when reaching what used to be the minimal number of faculty, those colleges would then have a second senator. Each college would continue to have an additional senator for every 30 faculty as is the current practice.
Motion 10: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 5.3. Not approved

Proposed wording:
5.3 Each college shall also elect an alternate or alternates who shall serve in place of an absent senator and shall enjoy all privileges of the senators during the period of service. Alternates are not eligible to serve as an officer of the Senate or considered as a candidate for the executive committee. A senator who has completed the maximum number of consecutive terms cannot serve as an alternate until a minimum of one academic year has elapsed since leaving office.

Rationale:
The last sentence of section 5.3 is new and adds a caveat that a senator who has reached their maximum terms cannot return as an alternate without having at least one year elapse from leaving office. This was added to ensure that an individual could not remain on senate indefinitely.
Motion 11: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 5.4 Approved

Proposed wording:
5.4 Senators shall be elected for three-year terms. Senators shall not be elected for more than two consecutive terms.

Rationale:
Section 5.4 was changed to eliminate the instructions for the first years that senate was created. The remaining wording does not change what is the practice.
**Motion 12:** Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 5.6.  *Approved*

**Proposed wording:** 5.6 Terms of service for the senators begin after the last scheduled meeting of the academic year, however, incoming senators are expected to attend the final meeting of the academic senate in the year of their election.

**Rationale:**
The current 5.6 was divided into two sections. The proposed change in wording to the current 5.6 instructs the newly elected senators and returning senators to attend the last meeting of senate for the year preceding their term. This was to provide an opportunity for introductions and instructions (if any).
Motion 13: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 5.8 (currently 5.7). Approved

Proposed wording:
5.8 Responsibilities of Senators shall include but not be limited to the following: serve each year on at least one of the following bodies - a standing committee of the Academic Senate, the Institute Council, or a university-wide committee; represent all faculty within their college; seek input from constituents on matters before senate; serve as a conduit of information from the senate to their constituents.

Rationale:
Wording was added to ensure that senators are aware of their responsibilities with respect to their constituents. The wording regarding committee responsibility remains the same.
Motion 14: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 6.1. Approved

Proposed wording:
6.1 The Senate shall annually elect, from among the faculty senators as identified in 5.2 above, an executive committee composed of a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a communications officer, an operations officer, and a treasurer. All officers will serve for a term of one year and take office at the end of the academic term in which they are elected. In the event of a resignation, change of duties, prolonged absence, removal from office, or other serious interruption of service, a new officer will be elected to complete the term from among the voting members of the faculty elected to the Senate.

Rationale:
Wording was added to provide instruction on how to fill a mid-term vacancy on the executive committee.
Motion 15: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 6.2 Approved

Proposed wording:
6.2 The election of officers by formal written ballot and the vote to approve the at-large committee members will take place according to the following schedule: ...

Rationale:
Wording was added to include the at-large standing committee members. A schedule had been provided for the election of the executive committee but not for the approval of at-large members of the standing committees.
Motion 16:
Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to 6.2(i). Approved

Proposed wording:
...It is the responsibility of each college to have completed its own elections by March 15th, so the Nominations Committee will know the pool of eligible faculty from whom they can seek candidates.

Rationale:
Wording was added to clarify the importance of college’s completing their elections on time.
Motion 16.a: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 6.2(ii)  Approved

Proposed wording:
(ii) By April 15th, the Senate will conduct a nomination meeting for presentation of officer candidates and committee candidates by the Nominations Committee. At this time, the candidates for the executive committee shall have a CV, and vision/mission statement available for review. All candidates must give prior consent to the nomination.

Rationale:
The new wording was added to ensure that all candidates for the executive committee comply with the same requirements.
Motion 17: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording in section 6.5.

Proposed changes:
6.5 The operations officer shall preside at the meetings of the Senate in the absence of the chairperson and vice chairperson and serve as the coordinating officer for standing committees of the Academic Senate. During meetings of the Senate, the operations officer will serve as parliamentarian, using Robert's Rules of Order (most recent version), and time-keeper of discussion. In addition, the operations officer shall validate the number of voting members in each college in January of each academic year from a list provided by the provost and shall allocate a certain number of senators to each.

Rationale:
The proposed change is the addition of the second sentence which identifies the role of the operations officer at the senate meetings.
**Motion 18:** Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording in section 9.1.

**Proposed changes:**
9.1 ... The chairperson of the Senate shall appoint a chair pro tem for each committee, whose function shall be to convene the committee's first meeting. The committee shall then elect a permanent chair from among its members. The chair shall communicate his or her election to the chairperson of the Academic Senate.

**Rationale:**
The proposed change in wording is the elimination of the graduate council as an exception to how the chairs of standing committees are chosen. This change was approved by senate in years passed but never entered into the charter and how graduate council currently functions.
Motion 19: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to section 9.3

Proposed changes:
9.3 Elections to all “standing” was placed in front of the word “committees”...
Section 9.3.2 (new)
9.3.2 Committee members from a given constituent group shall not be elected or appointed for more than two consecutive terms on a given committee.
9.3.3 All elections shall be conducted by formal ballot.

Rationale:
Section 9.3 was divided into smaller sections and minor changes in wording to facilitate the location of information. The word “standing” was placed in front of the word “committee” to clarity what committees were being addressed.
Section 9.3.2 was added to allow for an individual to serve as an at-large member once their college representation had reached it maximum limit. This allows for individuals to continue working on a project that was not completed.
9.3.3 was added to ensure that representation was accomplished by election.
Motion 20: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording to the introduction to Article X.

Proposed changes:
The following standing committees of the Academic Senate are hereby established. The chair of each standing committee shall be elected by the members of that committee. The responsibilities of each committee, as listed below, are illustrative not exhaustive. Standing committees may form sub-committees to accomplish the assigned responsibilities or annual charges. Voting membership ...

Rationale:
The changes in wording removed the former exception of graduate council having the ability to elect its own chair. The wording also gives formal permission to the standing committee to establish formal subcommittees to accomplish its responsibilities.
Proposed Reorganization of Standing Committees for Academic Senate
(reduces number from 14 to 6)

**Academic Affairs Committee (10.1)**
- Will include the responsibilities associated with the former committees of Academic Support and Student Affairs

**Faculty Affairs Committee (10.2)**
- Will include the responsibilities associated with the former committees Effective Teaching Committee (in E11.0 states this is a standing committee but was never in the charter)

**Graduate Council** remains as standing committee without any changes to responsibilities (10.3)

**Inter-college Curriculum Committee (ICC) (10.4)**
- Will include the responsibilities associated with the former committees of General Education and Institute Writing

**Nominations Committee** remains as standing committee without any changes to responsibilities. (10.5)

**Resource Allocation and Budget Committee (10.6)**
- Will include the responsibilities associated with the former committees of Environment and Long Range Planning

- Note: Center for Multidisciplinary Curriculum Committee was never entered into the charter as a standing committee of the Senate. This committee should not be under the purview of the Senate but rather remain within the academic unit.
Motion 21: Academic Senate approves the proposed change to the structure and responsibilities of the standing committees.

Proposed change:
- 10.1 The Academic Affairs Committee
- 10.2 The Faculty Affairs Committee
- 10.3 The Graduate Council
- 10.4 Inter-College Curriculum Committee
- 10.5 The Nominations Committee
- 10.6 The Resource Allocation and Budget Committee

Rationale:
The standing committee structure is becoming unsustainable both by the number of committees and the lack of interested and participatory faculty to serve, but by requests from an increasing number of groups to be considered a standing committee of the Academic Senate. In addition, there often times when it is difficult to find charge (s) for some of the current standing committees. The change in structure and responsibilities of the standing committees brings the list of committees back to the center of purpose for the Academic Senate. Since the responsibilities for each of the committees assumes responsibilities for the eliminated committees, the scope of work of the senate has not changed, however there is improved flexibility to accomplish the work.
Motion 22: Academic Senate approves the proposed changes in wording in Article XIII

Proposed Change:

Amendments to the Charter of Academic Governance shall require approval by the Senate and a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the faculty voting by electronic or paper ballot. Concurrence of the president is also required.

Rationale:
The proposed wording removes the possibility of a vote taking place at a “duly constituted meeting of the Faculty Assembly.” This change is proposed to ensure that voting will take place in such a fashion that the majority of faculty may participate.
Motion 23

• Academic Senate approves remaining changes in the charter.