Functionally, the proposed Academic Senate is a merging of the current Academic Senate and Executive Senate. Structurally, it is an elimination of Senate/committee overlap (no faculty would have to serve on both Senate and a standing committee) and the elimination of approximately 10 committee seats.

The proposed Academic Senate is comprised of 9 senators elected from faculty who are or have previously been department chairs, the Registrar, the Provost, and the WCSA President (voice without vote). Three senators are elected from each division: Faculty Council assembles the slate of nominees, and the full faculty votes for each nominee. All senators receive committee credit for being on the Senate. Department Chairs continue to receive a 1 course teaching load reduction, regardless of whether or not they serve on Senate.

A Senate chair is elected from within the Senate by the Senate. Each of the other eight senators serves on either the Review Committee (3), the Academic Resources Committee (4), or the Diversity Committee (1).

For 2010/2011, so reduction in standing committee seats is proposed: there are 49 standing committee seats in both cases. In the proposed system, the number of senate subcommittee seats is reduced from 13 to 7. In the current system, 83 total seats must be filled by approximately 77 faculty (97 less those on sabbatical, leave, release, or on off an off campus program), but only 49 receive committee credit; in the proposed system, 57 seats must be filled, all of which earn committee credit. Under the current system, at least 10 faculty serve on both Senate and a standing committee, and 13 of the 27 senators also serve on a Senate subcommittee. In the proposed system, no faculty would serve on both Senate and a standing committee, and approximately 10 faculty would be without a committee assignment each year (and therefore free to serve on ad hoc committees, task forces, etc.).