

CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Preamble: The Faculty Role in University Shared Governance

The principle of shared governance in universities is long established by tradition and was formalized in the 1966 *Joint Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities* (jointly formulated by the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges). The Joint Statement affirms that the academic institution is a “joint effort,” requiring communication and consultation among all constituencies, and addresses the distinctive responsibilities of trustees, administration, faculty, staff, and students in university governance.

The distinctive responsibility of the faculty is the academic mission of the university. In particular, the joint statement asserts that “The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process. On these matters the power of review or final decision lodged in the governing board or delegated by it to the president should be exercised adversely only in exceptional circumstances and for reasons communicated to the faculty.”

This constitution provides for the faculty to exercise this responsibility through an elected Faculty Senate. This Faculty Senate is designed to work in close communication and collaboration with the Board of Trustees, principal administrators and the Council of Deans, the PAT and Operating Staff Councils, and the Student Senate, each of which have their own distinctive responsibilities as well as overlapping areas of concern.

1. Purpose.

The Faculty Senate will be the legislative body that reviews and develops policies concerned with the academic mission of the university.

2. Membership.

Each academic department shall elect one member to the Faculty Senate for a two-year term. Departments with more than 20 tenure-track faculty shall elect two senators. For purposes of Faculty Senate membership, the Library, the Thompson School, and UNH-Manchester

shall be treated in the same way as departments. (See Bylaw 4).

Elections shall be by an approval ballot in which every tenure-track member of the department is nominated and in which faculty members can vote for as many candidates as they wish. Only tenure-track faculty may vote. The elections shall be supervised by the Faculty Senate.

3. Referral of fundamental issues to the faculty.

Decisions by the Faculty Senate which envision fundamental changes to current practice must be ratified by the tenure-track faculty as a whole. If one third of the senators or the majority of the tenure-track faculty of any college or school votes that a decision is of such fundamental importance, a faculty meeting to ratify the decision will be called by the Faculty Senate chair. This meeting will be conducted by the procedural rules of the Faculty Senate.

4. Implementation of legislation.

Faculty Senate legislation will be developed in consultation with the appropriate Dean(s), the appropriate Vice President(s) and the President. The Deans will implement the legislation, in consultation with the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate, through the appropriate Faculty Senate committees, will be informed by the university administration in a timely manner, of the disposition of the legislation passed by the Faculty Senate.

5. Officers of the Faculty Senate.

In May of each year, the members of the Faculty Senate for the following academic year will elect a chair, a vice chair, a secretary and two members of the Agenda Committee for one-year terms. A slate of candidates will be presented by the out-going Agenda Committee two weeks before the election. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor.

The Faculty Senate chair may select a parliamentarian either from within or from outside the Faculty Senate. The Provost's Office will provide funds for a program assistant, to assist the officers of the Faculty Senate in carrying out business of the Faculty Senate.

6. Committees.

a. Agenda Committee

An Agenda Committee of five members, including the Faculty Senate chair, vice chair and secretary, shall set the Faculty Senate agenda

and be responsible for the operations of the Faculty Senate.

b. Standing Committees

The Faculty Senate will have six standing committees, each comprised solely of Faculty Senators. Each committee will meet regularly with the corresponding administrators (see Bylaw 5) to advise and consult on policy and to design and implement Faculty Senate legislation. Committees will invite additional members of the university community or others to consult with them as appropriate.

1. The Academic Affairs Committee will concern itself with the University's instructional programs and academic support, including computer and information services and university advising programs.

2. The Finance and Administration Committee will concern itself with the financial affairs of the University, including establishing priorities and allocating funds within the budget.

3. The Student Affairs Committee will concern itself with student services and non-academic student programs, including athletics.

4. The Research and Public Service Committee will concern itself with the University's research and public service programs.

5. The Campus Planning Committee will concern itself with space allocation, facilities, and physical plant planning.

6. The Library Committee will concern itself with matters pertaining to the university's library and its operation.

c. The Professional Standards Committee

The Professional Standards Committee will concern itself with matters affecting the welfare of the faculty including academic freedom, promotion, tenure, workload assignments, faculty personnel policy, and professional ethics. This committee has a role established by the collective bargaining agreement relating to termination or severe sanctions placed on faculty members. The Professional Standards Committee will be elected by bargaining-unit faculty by approval ballots in Liberal Arts, Engineering and Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Agriculture, Business and Economics, Health and Human Services, UNH-Manchester, and the library. All tenured faculty members will automatically be the nominees on their respective ballots. The Faculty Senate will supervise this election.

The Professional Standards Committee will have seven directly

elected members. The vice chair of the Faculty Senate will be the eighth member and the chair of the committee.

d. Other Faculty Senate Committees

The Faculty Senate may establish whatever other committees it deems appropriate, as needed.

7. Faculty Senate bylaws and rules.

The Faculty Senate will establish its own bylaws and rules by majority vote.

8. Amendments to the Constitution.

Amendments to the Constitution will require a two-thirds vote of the Faculty Senate. Amendments will be introduced to the Faculty Senate at least two weeks before the vote.

9. Matters pertaining to collective bargaining.

Collective bargaining issues may be discussed, but no official action may be taken.

10. Meetings open to faculty.

The meetings of the Faculty Senate will be open to all tenure-track faculty. Others may be present only on invitation of the Agenda Committee. Anyone may be recognized to make a presentation at a Faculty Senate meeting, but only senators may propose motions or vote.

11. Coordination with students, administration, and staff.

The Faculty Senate is committed to working closely with other university governing bodies, including the Board of Trustees, the President's Cabinet, the Student Senate, the PAT Council, and the Operating Staff Council.

12. Evaluation and reconsideration of the Faculty Senate.

Five years after the enactment of this constitution, the chair of the Faculty Senate shall organize a referendum to determine whether the faculty are satisfied with the Faculty Senate as constituted by this document and any subsequent amendments.

BYLAWS OF THE FACULTY SENATE

1. ELECTIONS

A. Half of the senators will be elected each year. The senate assistant will prepare ballots for those departments electing senators in a given year, with every tenure-track faculty member of those departments appearing on the ballot.

B. Departmental ballots will be sent to faculty members directly by the senate assistant during the first week of March. Ballots must be returned to the senate assistant by March 31.

C. A plurality of votes from the department will be sufficient for election. In the case of a tie, a run-off election will be held between April 1 and April 20.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

A. Standing Committees: In May of each year the Agenda Committee will coordinate appointing members to committees after receiving indications of committee preferences. Each standing committee will elect a chair.

B. Joint Committees: The Agenda Committee and the Faculty Senate will coordinate appointments and elections of faculty to all university-wide joint committees of faculty, administration and students, such as the ROTC Board of Governors, the MUB Board of Governors, the Affirmative Action Committee, and the Athletic Advisory Committee.

C. Professional Standards Committee: Members will be elected for two-year terms with half elected each year. The senate assistant will prepare ballots for those units electing members, with every tenured faculty member in the unit appearing on the ballot. The same procedure as in (1.B) and (1.C) will be followed.

3. MEETINGS

A. The Agenda Committee will meet at least once a month during the academic year. The committee will call meetings of the full senate whenever agenda items arise, but normally at least once a month.

Standing committees will converse regularly with the Agenda Committee about prospective agenda items.

B. The senate will have a regular meeting in September to discuss the future year’s work and a regular meeting in May to organize the new senate.

C. A quorum must be present for the legal transaction of business, and a quorum will consist of a majority of the voting members. Senators may be represented by proxy.

4. DEFINITION OF FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS

For purposes of Faculty Senate membership, academic departments are listed below. The Agenda Committee is responsible for monitoring this list annually.

Accounting and Finance	English	Philosophy
Animal Science and Nutritional Science	Family Studies	Physics
Anthropology	Geography	Plant Biology
Science	Health Management and	Political
Art and Art History	Policy & Med. Lab. Science	
Psychology		
Biochemistry and Molecular Management	History	Recreation
Biology	Hospitality Management	and Policy
Chemical Engineering and	Kinesiology	Resource Economics
Chemistry	Languages, Literatures and	
Development	Cultures	Social Work
Civil Engineering	Management	Sociology
Communication Disorders	Marketing	Theatre and Dance
Communication	Mathematics	Zoology
Computer Science	Mechanical Engineering	Library
Decision Sciences	Microbiology	Thompson
Earth Sciences		
School		
Economics	Music	UNH-M

Education
Electrical Engineering
Engineering Technology

Natural Resources
Nursing
Occupational Therapy

5. FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES AND
CORRESPONDING ADMINISTRATORS

Standing Committees

Corresponding Administrators

Academic Affairs
Affairs, Dean's

Provost/Vice President for Academic

Council

Finance and Administration
Administration
Student Affairs
Research and Public Service
Public Service
Campus Planning
Facilities
Library

Vice President for Finance and

Vice President for Student Affairs

Vice President for Research and

Assistant Vice President for

University Librarian

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