

ARTICLE 12

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

12.1

The faculties of the University's colleges falling under the authority of the Faculty Guide, as designated in article 1, participate in the general governance of the University through the Faculty Senate, college governance organizations, and other bodies, including but not limited to task forces, working groups and special committees, convened by the University on matters related to the University's academic mission

12.2

The entire full-time faculty of the university shall have primary responsibility for recommending academic policy to the Board of Regents, through the Provost and the President as regards the colleges governed by this Faculty Guide, this includes the following:

- a. Academic standards for admission, recruitment, retention, and graduation of students.
- b. The academic calendar as to its educational parameters (accepting the right of all sections of the university relative to its implementation).
- c. Revisions to the undergraduate core curriculum of the university.
- d. Faculty policies (as defined in article 2.1.b) and matters concerning research support, educational programs and faculty development.
- e. Review and coordination of all college curricula and academic programs.
- f. Review and approval of all new academic programs.
- g. Periodic review of all academic programs. (Program Review)
- h. Consultation in the preparation of the University's budgets.
- i. Consultation in the planning and maintenance of academic facilities and resources.
- j. Participation in Strategic Planning and discussion over the future direction of the University

12.3

- a. The faculty exercises its role in academic governance through the following agencies:
 1. academic departments and interdepartmental programs as defined in article 10.2.c.;

2. college faculty governance organizations as delineated in article 11.
3. the Faculty Senate, whose Charter is article 12.6 below and whose duties include monitoring matters listed in articles 12.2. In its operations, the Faculty Senate shall not replace, modify or assume any of the internal governance prerogatives of the Colleges as defined in Article 1.3.

12.4 Faculty Governance

- a. Although its members are elected by faculty governance units, the Faculty Senate is faculty-wide in its representation and purposes and is the sole campus-wide vehicle of for the representation and governance of the faculties of all Colleges of the University listed in article 1. .
- b. Campus-wide Committees and Task Forces
 1. The University Faculty shall have representation on all University-wide committees, task forces and working groups deliberating on matters related to curriculum, instruction, research, strategic planning, and conditions of faculty employment. When such bodies are convened, the Faculty Senate shall send to the President and to the Provost a slate of twice the number of full-time faculty members needed to serve. The administration will give due consideration to these nominees. If none are deemed appropriate, the administration may request additional names from the Faculty Senate.
 2. The Chair of the Faculty Senate shall sit on the University Budget Committee along with a second representative of the Senate designated by the Executive Committee. Additional Faculty members may be added to this committee by mutual agreement of the Faculty Senate and the Provost.

12.5 Charter of the Faculty Senate

- a. The Faculty Senate represents the faculty in matters of academic policies and procedures as well as in matters of faculty welfare. It has the right and duty to represent that faculty on all matters which affect the faculty as a whole and to help inform faculty opinion on matters of campus-wide importance.
- b. The Senate shall maintain and regularly update bylaws specifying its operating procedures.
- c. The Faculty Senate's responsibilities include the monitoring of compliance with decisions reached and agreements entered into by the university administration including this Faculty Guide. This responsibility includes the obligation to inform the university administration in a timely manner when such agreements have been breached.
- d. Plenary Meetings. An official plenary meeting of the faculty may be convened by the Faculty Senate whenever it believes that such meeting will be advantageous in

discussing matters of great importance, helping to inform and ascertain faculty opinion, or communicating with the faculty. The plenary meeting may formulate a consensus which the Senate shall consider.

- e. Eligibility for Election. All full-time faculty members at the time of an election are eligible to be elected by their faculty governance unit to be a Senator or an Alternate in the Faculty Senate.
- f. Membership. The number of Senators from each campus unit shall be apportioned according to the number of its full-time faculty members as specified in the Senate Bylaws, with a minimum of two Senators for each unit. Sufficient Alternates shall be elected from each unit to replace temporarily Senators who are unavoidably absent from Faculty Senate meetings.

The Senate Bylaws shall specify the number of senators and the apportionment of seats among the colleges. The Bylaws shall mandate a procedure to regularly review and update the apportionment of seats.

In electing Senators and Alternates, each faculty governance unit shall use procedures specified in its Bylaws. Results of these elections, including information on the number of votes received by each candidate, will be reported in writing to the Executive Secretary of the Faculty Senate. g. Actions Taken by the Faculty Senate.

1. Any resolution passed by the Faculty Senate, shall be communicated by the Executive Secretary of the Faculty Senate in writing directly to provost and other concerned parties as soon as possible after Senate action occurs.

2. The Provost may request the Executive Committee to introduce a resolution for Senate approval or initiate Senate action. In such cases the Executive Committee shall communicate as soon as possible the action taken by the Senate whether approval, modification or rejection of the request.

3. When necessary the Senate, through its Executive Committee, may communicate directly to the President and Boards of Regents and Trustees.

4. At scheduled meetings of the Executive Committee with the Provost held as soon as possible after each Senate meeting, the Committee shall discuss and report on matters of concern to the Faculty Senate, including both resolutions under consideration and resolutions passed and rejected. It shall also report to the provost and the president faculty opinion on matters of general campus concern.

- h. Response by Administration to actions taken by the Senate.

1. Recommendations made by the Faculty Senate on behalf of the campus faculty shall be communicated in writing to the provost.

2. Within a reasonable time after receiving these recommendations, the provost shall reply in writing to the Faculty Senate concerning each recommendation, indicating (1)

acceptance of the recommendation and giving a timetable for its implementation, (2) a statement of the reasons for its non-acceptability, or (3) a request that it be modified in stated ways.

3. A “reasonable time” for administrative responses to actions by the Senate shall be defined as thirty (30) calendar days not including days when the University is officially closed.

i. Appeals.

1. If the provost chooses not to approve a recommendation forwarded by the Executive Committee or if the timetable proposed by the provost for its implementation is unacceptable to the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall meet with the provost. Failing to come to an agreement, the Faculty Senate may appeal the provost's decision or failure to respond in timely fashion directly to the president.

2. If within a reasonable period of time after receiving from the Faculty Senate an appeal or a request for action on a matter of academic policy (such as rank and tenure, welfare, or administrator failure to follow the Faculty Guide), the president chooses not to accept its recommendation, the Faculty Senate by two-thirds vote may exercise its right of appeal to an appropriate committee or committees of the university's Board of Regents.

3. For purposes of this section, a reasonable time for action (approval, request for reconsideration in whole or in part, or disapproval) is defined as 30 calendar days after receipt, except for cases in which the Executive Committee and the administrator concerned both agree in advance and in writing that a longer or shorter specified amount of time is acceptable.

J. Review and Approval of Academic Policy

1. As stipulated in FG 2.2.c. “Faculty Policies” concerning academic matters applicable to multiple Colleges must be submitted to the Senate for review and approval before such policy can be put into effect by the Provost.

2. If the provost or the president submits to the Faculty Senate for review and approval a proposed academic policy or procedure, the Faculty Senate shall act within a reasonable time. Otherwise such policies and procedures may become effective as proposed after 40 calendar days, within the nine month academic calendar, except for cases in which the Executive Committee and the administrator concerned both agree in advance and in writing that a longer or shorter specified amount of time is acceptable.

3. Faculty Policies introduced outside the nine-month academic calendar shall be handled by the Executive Committee as stipulated in FG 12.2.j.

i. **Delegation of Authority.**

1. Except as specifically provided in given cases, the Faculty Senate does not authorize any member, officer, committee or other agency to reach final agreement for it in negotiations/discussions, including those with university administrators. Final decisions in actions taken on behalf of the campus faculty are reserved to the Faculty Senate itself; only in exceptional cases and for valid cause may these responsibilities be delegated.

j. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, consisting of its three major officers and two at-large members, is authorized to act for the Senate between meetings, subject to the requirement that any actions it takes must be submitted to the Faculty Senate at its next regular meeting for confirmation.

k. Support for Faculty Senate. To enable the Faculty Senate and its major officers to carry out their responsibilities, the provost will provide the Senate with an operating budget sufficient for its needs, **administrative** assistance for the Executive Committee and for other standing committees as specified by the Executive Committee, and **appropriate** office space **as needed**. Twelve credit hours of release time per semester will be available for the Senate officers, apportioned by the Senate Executive Committee. For librarian faculty, the released time shall be equivalent to six or three credits of release time provided to other faculty.