

Academic Senate Orientation 2012-2013

Robert Fujinami, Senate President

Allyson Mower, Senate President – Elect

Pat Hanna, Past President

Bob Flores, Special Assistant

Paul Mogren, Senate Parliamentarian

Amy Wildermuth, Associate VP of Academic Affairs

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities in University Governance

- “the authority ... to legislate on matters of educational policy”
- “a right to participate in decisions relating to the general academic operations of the university including budget decisions and administrative appointments”
- “a right to a meaningful role in the governance of the university”

The Academic Senate

- The legislative power of the faculty is "normally... exercised by the faculty in conjunction with duly elected student representative and administrators in the Academic Senate ..."
- Codified
 - in official University policy and procedures
 - in the history of the University

Composition

- Voting Members
 - 79 faculty members, proportionally representing and elected by their respective colleges
 - 2 deans elected by the deans
 - 18 students from student government (ASUU), one from each college and the ASUU president
- Ex officio (non-voting)
 - Dave Pershing, University President
 - Michael L. Hardman, Interim Senior VP for Academic Affairs
 - Vivian Lee, Senior VP for Health Sciences
 - All deans except the two voting deans

Academic Senate Responsibilities

- acts on all matters of educational policy, including requirements for admission, degrees, diplomas, certificates, and curricular matters involving relations between schools and colleges or departments
- "receives and considers reports from all faculty committees, councils, departments, divisions, administrative officers, schools, colleges, faculties and libraries" and takes "appropriate action thereon within the scope of its authority."

Academic Senate Responsibilities

- considers "matters of professional interest and faculty welfare" and makes "recommendations to the university president and other administrative officers concerned"
- proposes "amendments or additions to the University Regulations for the government of the university"
- Finally, "the university president may refer to the Senate any matter upon which the president feels it would be useful to have the advice of that body."

Senate Committees

- Standing
 - Executive Committee
 - Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights Committee
 - Academic Policy Advisory Committee
 - Annuities and Salaries Committee
 - Faculty Budget and Planning Advisory Committee
 - Consolidated Hearing Committee
 - Library Policy Advisory Committee
 - Personnel and Elections Committee
 - University Diversity Committee
 - University RPT Standards Committee
- Ad Hoc

Executive Committee (Xcom)

- Does
 - Reviews documents and listens to presentations on all proposals and reports
 - Assures compliance
 - Recommends corrections and improvements, and alerts authors about likely areas of concern that Senate may have
 - Places items on Senate agenda
- Does Not
 - Approve anything (except during the summer)

Senate Agenda Items

- Are in very late stages
 - typically go directly to the Board of Trustees
 - have been vetted through many different committees and administrators before getting to the Senate
 - have been vetted by XCom
- Most are very good
 - Some are, and should, be expedited
 - Some are controversial, some inaccurate, some have unintended consequences
- Which are which
 - XCom report, XCom Senators
 - Read the agenda packets, talk to colleagues, step up