

History, Purpose, and Responsibilities of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate was organized in 1966 and recognized by the Board of Regents as the official representative body of the faculty. Approval by the Board of Regents on March 25, 1976, of Senate Bill 76-A-01, "Recommendations on Academic Reorganization," and particularly Part I, "University Governance," reaffirmed the role of the Faculty Senate as the established representative body through which the faculty could make "formal recommendations for new academic policy and changes in existing policy." The Board of Regents' action in 1976 formally provides assurance of faculty input into academic policy developed by means of the Faculty Senate.

President Stacy and the Board of Regents, in a letter to the Faculty Senate dated January 29, 1982, reaffirmed their commitment to receive the expression of faculty opinion through the Faculty Senate. Senate members were asked to utilize their professional competence and best judgment to review, develop, and make recommendations to the President and the Board of Regents (now the Board of Governors) on all matters of concern to the university community.

Faculty Senate Organization

The Faculty Senate was reorganized in 1983 to reflect the new college structure created by academic reorganization during that year. Senate membership consists of departmental unit representatives elected for three-year terms with one third of the membership elected each year. Officers of the Senate are elected annually from the Senate membership.

A. The purposes of the Faculty Senate as stated in the Faculty Senate Constitution, Article II, are:

1. To uphold the principles of the collegial form of governance.
2. To encourage mutual contributions from the various sectors of the university community.
3. To provide an appropriate forum for discussing matters involving the professional staff.
4. To inform all segments of the academic community of the Faculty Senate's concerns, findings, and actions.
5. To safeguard and advance the welfare and effectiveness of the university.
6. To serve as the regular channel of communication between the faculty and administration and, through the Office of the President, between the faculty and the Board of Governors.
7. To review, develop, and make recommendations to the President on all matters of concern to the university community.

B. The specific duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Faculty Senate are found in the Faculty Senate Constitution, Article VII. Regular areas of Faculty Senate concern include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Responsibility for determining the position of the faculty on any matter of university policy.
2. Development of procedures for academic freedom, tenure, and due process.
3. Programs for faculty welfare.
4. Representation of faculty interests to the administration in university financial matters.

5. Form and content of the Faculty Handbook.
6. Responsibility for the University curricula and requirements for graduation.
7. Direct involvement in the process of selection of administrative officials by selecting and/or serving on search committees.
8. Planning and utilization of buildings and grounds.
9. Standards for student admission, remaining in good standing, and scholastic performance.
10. Policies governing student welfare, activities, freedoms, and discipline.
11. Such other matters as might come to merit regular consideration by the Senate, or which shall be designated as areas of Senate action by the University President or the Board of Governors, assuming Senate acceptance.

Faculty Senate Website Link

- Faculty Senate Website: <http://www.semo.edu/facultysenate>
- Faculty Handbook: https://semo.edu/faculty-senate/_pdfs/faculty-senate-handbook.pdf