The Faculty Senate

9 Views
40 Members

- 30 senators elected by their colleges
  - 1 - SOL
  - 2 - CCIS
  - 3 - BCHS, CAMD, DMSB
  - 6 - COE, COS, CSSH
- 9 administrators appointed by the Provost
- Provost (who chairs sessions and votes only in ties)
- Open meetings, 2 per month
What the Senate did last year

• Established 5 new Master’s degree programs and 3 new Bachelor’s degree programs
  • Eliminated 1 MS program & changed 1 MS name
• Established search committees for 1 dean and 5 chairs
• Oversaw evaluations for 2 deans and 4 chairs
• Considered 2 tenure appeals
• Revised the criteria for developing and displaying faculty workloads
• Revised the FH module on faculty workloads
More of what the Senate did last year

•Moved toward “one faculty” by minimizing the differences (with the obvious exception of tenure) in the rights and responsibilities between the various classifications of FT faculty
•Mandated that all academic units have clearly defined voting and other governance rights/responsibilities for all FT faculty including tenured, tenure-track and non-tenure-track
•Modified multiple FH modules including the ones on appointments, promotion procedures, and grievance policy
•Added a new module on non-retaliation
And yet more of last year’s work

• Enhanced effectiveness of communication between ITS and faculty, including today’s presentation
• Opportunity for unit faculty input before an offer of tenure on entry
• Transparent accounting of enrollments in combined majors
• Requested analysis of University endowment exposure to fossil fuel industries and options for divesting said funds (partnership with students)
• Sense of the Senate resolution that the executive order prohibiting entry into the US from selected countries and for selected religions undermines the fundamental values of this institution
Some Senate priorities for this year

• Collaborate with the Student Government Association to update the Students’ Bill of Academic Rights & Responsibilities
• Monitor the experience of our international students
• Examine the current policies & practices for faculty leaders of 5-week study-abroad experiences
• Identify a full suite of integrated services supporting the research data lifecycle
• Review post-award processes to identify how they can be made more efficient
• Identify a new grant management system
• Work with the inaugural Dean of Libraries and Vice Provost for Information Collaboration to define what access to information means now and what resources are needed for that access
What’s in the Faculty Handbook?

• Faculty appointments, promotion & tenure
  • Includes compensation, sabbatical & other leaves
• Faculty rights in teaching, research & scholarship
• Faculty personnel policies
  • Includes workloads & outside professional activities
• Academic organization
  • Includes definition of various types of faculty and process for appointing and reviewing university administrators
Definition by the Board of Trustees

• The Faculty Senate, together with the Administration of the University, has the responsibility of maintaining and improving the academic standards of the University and making the functioning of the University more effective and harmonious.

• It is the highest faculty governance body in the University.

• It also coordinates activities among the various College faculties as well as those that involve both the administration and faculty of the University.
Responsibilities assigned by the BOT

- **To act as a coordinating body** to establish mutually satisfactory academic goals and standards among the various Colleges and divisions;

- **To be consulted** ... on all policies, proposals, and problems of faculty concern, including such matters as the creation of new colleges, new campuses, and new departments;

- **To be the final faculty body** to deliberate and act upon recommendations from the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or the Graduate Council;

- **To initiate consideration and recommendation** on any matter of faculty concern;

- **To undertake such legislative and advisory functions** in connection with the work of the University as may be referred to it by the President and Board of Trustees; and

- **To provide communication between the University faculty and the Administration.**
Senate Agenda Committee

- Senate elects 6 SAC members
  - Includes Chair & Secretary positions
- SAC responsibilities
  - Set the agenda for all Senate meetings
  - Staff standing committees; create *ad hoc* committees
  - Provide regular channel for consultation and communication between the faculty and administration
  - Represent the faculty on University-level committees
  - Meet at least once each year with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees
From your viewpoint

• Meet interesting people, learn interesting things & help shape the university
• Discuss Senate and university-wide issues at your college faculty meetings
• Be informed
  • Agendas and reports from the Senate meetings are sent to all faculty.
• Attend Faculty Senate meetings if interested
• Contact your senators
• Contact SAC
  • The Senate Agenda Committee considers each idea it receives and will also respect the request for confidentiality.
• Get involved
  • Senate committees tackle a broad array of university-wide issues.
  • Senate terms are for two years.