

CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Article I. Scope

The Faculty Senate of The University of Toledo is an elected body of the faculty, with responsibility to promote the mission, function and interests of The University of Toledo and its faculty. As such, the Faculty Senate acts as the representative voice of the faculty.

Article II. Responsibilities and Jurisdiction

The Faculty Senate may consider any subject pertaining to the interests of the university and to act in the name of faculty in making recommendations to administration on these matters.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Faculty Senate shall have the following specific powers and responsibilities:

- A. To provide a collegial forum for communication and consultation between the faculty and the University administration.
- B. To promote a positive working environment for academic, clinical, and professional excellence and growth for the faculty of all colleges within the University.
- C. To protect faculty rights and privileges, equal opportunity, due process, and academic freedom, and to promote an exemplary standard of ethical conduct at the academic, professional and administrative levels.
- D. To review and respond to policy, procedural and programmatic changes, initiated or recommended by the administration, that affect the faculty or the academic mission of the institution.
- E. Subject to the supervision and control of the Board of Trustees of the University as delegated through the academic administration, to participate in shared governance for the academic affairs of the University, including: the academic rules, regulations, policies and standards regarding undergraduate students; the standards for granting of degrees, honors and awards; and the oversight of student development and progression.
- F. To participate in a meaningful manner in any University long range strategic planning or prioritization, including budgetary, policy, fiscal and facility planning.
- G. To solicit input from the faculty, in accordance with university policy and legal regulations, on the performance of the provost, vice provost(s), and deans at least once every two years (including those who serve in these positions on an interim basis longer than two years), to ensure accountability and improve administrative performance.
- H. To have a meaningful role in university-wide academic appointments, including being an active participant in the search process.
- I. To form standing and ad hoc committees as may be appropriate for effective and efficient execution of its duties.
- J. To periodically review the structure of the faculty, including non-Faculty Senate appointed and elected committees, and make appropriate recommendations to the administration.

- K. To develop and adopt bylaws and rules to this Constitution for the effective administration and operation of the Faculty Senate.

Article III. Membership Eligibility

Only continuing, full-time tenured, tenure-track, or lecturer members of the faculty shall be eligible for membership in the Faculty Senate. Such persons shall not include faculty emeriti, faculty on superannuate status, or faculty with visiting, adjunct, or non-renewable term appointments. No administrative faculty except for department chairs shall be eligible for election to Faculty Senate.

The Provost shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Faculty Senate.

Article IV. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate shall consist of the Faculty Senate President, the President-Elect, the Past-President, the Executive Secretary, one member of the Senate elected to the Ohio Faculty Council of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, two members of the Senate representing colleges from the main campus, and two members of the Senate representing colleges from the health science campus. The Faculty Senate President and President-Elect shall also serve as the representatives of the Faculty Senate at meetings of The University of Toledo Board of Trustees.

Article V. Faculty Senate Bylaws and Rules

The Bylaws of the Faculty Senate shall detail the primary characteristics of the Faculty Senate and its committees and shall prescribe how Faculty Senate and its committees function. Rules may also be adopted in order to prescribe the functions of certain committees where greater detail is needed.

Adoption of the Bylaws and Rules shall be by a two-thirds affirmative majority of Faculty Senate members present and voting at a regularly scheduled meeting at which a quorum is present at the time of the vote.

Bylaws or Rules may be amended by a simple majority of Faculty Senate members present and voting at a regularly scheduled meeting at which a quorum is present at the time of the vote.

Except where a Bylaw or Rule of the Faculty Senate provides specific instruction to the contrary, Faculty Senate and its committees shall operate in accordance with the latest version of Robert's Rules of Order in the conduct of its business.

Faculty Senate bylaws and rules are subject to the provisions of The University of Toledo Board of Trustees bylaws sections 3364-1-10(B) and 3364-1-7(B-8).

Article VI. Special Meetings of the Faculty

At the request of the Faculty Senate, special faculty meetings may be called by the President of the University, consistent with the provisions of The University of Toledo Board of Trustees bylaws sections 3364-1-7(B-3), for consideration of recommendations or other business of the Senate. The University of Toledo President may preside at such a meeting or may delegate the role to the President of Faculty Senate who shall preside at such a special faculty meeting under the aegis of Faculty Senate. In the event of The University of Toledo President's refusal or inability to call a special faculty meeting upon request of the Faculty Senate, the President of the Faculty Senate may call and preside at such special faculty meeting under the aegis of Faculty Senate.

Article VII. Non-Member Rights

Nonmembers of the faculty and members of the faculty who are not senators shall have the right to attend meetings of the Senate and shall be privileged to speak in regard to matters before the Faculty Senate subject to the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate, but they shall be without the right to vote.

Article VIII. Shared Governance

Subject to the oversight described in the provisions of The University of Toledo Board of Trustees bylaws sections 3364-1-10(B) and 3364-1-7(B-8), each college, including the University Libraries, shall establish a governance body in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate. Such bodies must operate in coordination with the Faculty Senate. Such bodies, as well as all committees of the faculty shall route proposals requiring faculty action to the Faculty Senate, insofar as those proposals come within the jurisdiction of the Faculty Senate as prescribed in Article II of this Constitution.

Article IX. Amendment

Subject to the oversight described in the provisions of The University of Toledo Board of Trustees bylaws sections 3364-1-10(B) and 3364-1-7(B-8), a resolution to amend the Constitution may be adopted at any general meeting of the faculty. The Faculty Senate may also adopt such a resolution during its regular business procedures. The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative majority of the returned votes of the faculty. The vote will be conducted and tallied by the Senate Committee on Elections in accordance with Faculty Senate Bylaws and Rules and verified by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. For personnel title and institutional title changes only, Faculty Senate may amend the Constitution by two-thirds affirmative majority of Faculty Senate members present and voting at a regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting at which a quorum is present at the time of the vote.

Article X. Interpretation

Subject to the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University, in the event of an ambiguity in the spirit, meaning, or conditions of interpretations of any provisions of this Constitution, its Bylaws or its Rules, the meaning of such provision shall be determined by a simple majority of Faculty Senate members present and voting at a regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting at which a quorum is present at the time of the vote.

Article XI. Reconsideration

Any action taken by the Faculty Senate in the name of the faculty may be reconsidered by the faculty in accordance with the reconsideration procedure established by the Faculty Senate in its Bylaws. To approve a reconsideration, a simple majority of the faculty who are present and voting at the special meeting of the faculty (see, Article VI. Special Meetings of the Faculty, above) is required.

Amendment History

Previous Version:

Approved by the Faculty of the Main Campus and Health Science Campus, May 2007

Approved by the Board of Trustees March 10, 2008

Draft Created April 2022

Current Version:

First Faculty Senate Reading Completed, September 29, 2020

Approved by the Faculty of the Main Campus and Health Science Campus, September 9, 2022

Revised June 6, 2023