The Faculty Senate

- First Faculty Constitution 1971
  - Preamble: “…The University can only function properly when goodwill is nurtured and maintained by the President, the administrators, and the faculty…”

- The Faculty Constitution provides a structure for faculty governance.
The Role of the Senate

• The Senate serves as a forum for the mutual exchange of ideas between faculty and administration.

• Advisory body to the president and provost.

• Collaborates and make recommendations to administration on matters which concern colleges, schools or other major academic units, or which are otherwise of general university interest.
The Role of the Senate

• Operates according to the principles of shared governance.

• The Senate consists of 75 elected faculty equitably apportioned among and representing academic units.
The Role of the Senate

• Eligible faculty include assistant – full professor, instructor/lecturer – senior instructor/lecturer, and assistant – university librarian.

• These positions represent the faculty whose primary assignment is to carry out the academic mission of the university, namely, teaching, research and academic service.
The Role of the Senate

- The Senate meets monthly – Fall through Spring and is provided monthly updates from the provost.
- Senators are expected to serve on Senate operational or curricular committees; these committees carry out important Senate and university business.
Governance Structure

Florida Board of Governors (Performance Funding, Preeminence, Regulations)

UCF Board of Trustees (UCF Regulations)

UCF President (UCF Policies)

UCF Provost (UCF Policies)

UCF-UFF Bargaining Team (Faculty Contract)

Florida Legislature (Funding)

Advisory Council of Faculty Senates

UCF Faculty Senate (Resolutions)

Senate Committees

United Faculty of Florida

Academic Affairs, SDES, IT, Research, Deans, etc. (UCF Policies)
UCF Governance Structure

- Although the Senate makes recommendations regarding bargained items – the recommendations are advisory to administration.
- The Senate has no advisory or collaborative role with union.
The Role of a Faculty Senator

• Represent and collaborate with constituents.
• Communicate issues that impact colleges and faculty.
• Represent your college by serving on at least one Senate operational or curricular committee.
The Role of a Faculty Senator

- Attend scheduled Senate meetings. Any senator that misses more than half of the scheduled meetings is presumed to have resigned.

- Review the agenda and supporting materials prior to the meeting. Collaborate with constituents to represent the overall sense.
The Faculty Senate Structure

• Annually elect a chair, vice chair, and secretary. The chair annually appoints a Senate Parliamentarian.

• Senate chair, chairs the Senate Steering Committee. Vice chair, chairs the Committee on Committees.
The Faculty Senate Structure

- Senate chair is automatically a member of the UCF Board of Trustees and appointed to BOT committees.
- Chair serves on the University Budget and Facilities Budget Committees.
- Chair and past chair attend the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates meetings.
The Faculty Senate Structure

• Steering Committee serves as the “executive” committee of the Senate.

• The Steering Committee on Committees completes committee staffing over the summer.
Senate Committees and Councils

Each committee has specific responsibilities. Three classes of committees are staffed by the Senate.

1. Senate Operational Committees.
2. Senate Curricular Committees.
3. Joint Committees and Councils.
Senate Committees and Councils

Senate rules govern Senate committees and councils.

- Any committee member that misses more than half of the scheduled meetings is presumed to have resigned.
- Chair and vice chair of committee elected annually.
Senate Operational Committees

Senate Operational Committees are administered by the Senate and provide a monthly Senate update.

- Budget and Administrative
- Faculty Senate Parking, Transportation and Safety
- Information Technology
- Personnel
- Research Council
Senate Curricular Committees

Senate Curricular Committees are administered by the College of Undergraduate Studies and College of Graduate Studies. A Senate liaison provides a monthly update.

- Undergraduate Council
  - Undergraduate Course Review
  - Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum

- Graduate Council
  - Graduate Appeals
  - Graduate Curriculum
  - Graduate Policy
  - Graduate Program Review and Awards
Senate Operational and Curricular Committees

• Staffed by senators first, then remaining seats are filled by the general faculty.

• Senator committee preferences are solicited after the April Senate meeting.

• Senate Curricular committee members are typically limited to one faculty member per academic unit.
Senate Joint Committees and Councils

• Joint committees and councils are administered by the responsible committee administrator.

• Committees and Councils provide an annual report to the Senate.

• Committee membership includes a cross-section of stakeholders.
Senate Joint Committees and Councils

• Academic Calendar
• Admissions and Standards
• Commencements, Convocations, and Recognitions
• Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory
• Library Advisory
Senate Joint Committees and Councils

- Strategic Planning Council
- Undergraduate Common Program Oversight
- University Athletics Advisory
- University Honors
- University Master Planning
- University Parking and Transportation
- University Promotion and Tenure
- University Travel Awards
Senate Committee Staffing

• Completed by each Committee on Committees representative in consultation with the dean’s designee.
• Staffed over the summer.
• Membership criteria varies by committee.
• Term lengths vary by committee.
Resolutions

- Formally identifies an issue or need.
- Formally communicates the sense of the Faculty Senate; representing the general faculty.
- Processed during the Senate session; Fall through Spring.
Resolutions

- Resolutions can be formulated by Senate committees or the Steering Committee.
- All committee resolutions must be sent to the Steering Committee one-week prior to the scheduled meeting.
- Steering either schedules resolutions on the Senate agenda or returns them to the committee for additional work.
Resolutions

• Once passed by the Senate, resolutions are transmitted to the provost.

• The Senate passes resolutions that are in support, requests administrative action, or are informational only.

• Once transmitted to the provost, the provost has 60-days to approve or deny the resolutions that request an administrative action.
Resolutions

- Guidance can be found under Senate Resources on the Faculty Senate Website at www.facultysenate.ucf.edu.
- For the past 50 years, the Senate has passed 552 resolutions. Administration approved 444 for an 80% approval rate.
Thank you for your service!