

Faculty Senate Joint Committee and Council Procedures

Committee Governance

All rules and policies of the Senate govern the operation of its committees unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws of the committee. Senate committees may adopt temporary rules and policies necessary to the operation of committees. These temporary rules must be consonant with the constitution and the bylaws and are reported to the Faculty Senate Office (fSenate@ucf.edu) as they are adopted. Such changes are subject to subsequent approval by the Senate. Any Senate committee may formulate its opinion in the form of a resolution in the area of the committee responsibility. All committee resolutions are submitted to the Steering Committee.

About Senate Joint Committees and Councils

Joint committees and councils have a broad range of responsibilities at the university level and do not report to the full Faculty Senate at each meeting. The first meeting of the academic year will be held upon the call of the chair or committee administrator. Subsequent meetings will be held upon the call of the committee chair. A committee chair (unless appointed) is elected annually by the membership at the first Fall meeting of the committee. Minutes should be taken at each meeting. Previous committee minutes should be approved at the next meeting. Although anyone may attend meetings as a guest, only the appointed committee members may vote. Committees should hold meetings at least once a semester during the regular academic year.

Duties of Committee Members

Committee members are appointed by a wide range of groups including the Senate Committee on Committees, USPS Council, SGA President, Graduate Student Association, Alumni Association, and various vice presidents, to name a few. Details can be found in the specific membership criteria for each committee in the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Committee members:

- continue to serve until their replacements are appointed;
- are expected to review the agenda, previous minutes, and any supporting information prior to the meeting;
- are appointed to the committee to represent a constituency. Members are expected to solicit and vet issues with their constituents;
- engage in committee deliberations, representing their constituents;
- assist in the formulation of resolutions. Resolutions are not typical for curricular committees, however;
- notify the committee chair if unable to attend a meeting; and
- notify the Faculty Senate Office if unable to serve or in need of an interim replacement due to a lengthy absence.

Duties of a Committee Chair

Committee chairs are elected annually by the membership. The committee chair is expected to keep order, be fair and impartial, and protect the rights of all the members. The chair:

- read and follow the Bylaws section that outlines the duties, responsibilities, and membership of this specific committee;
- for many committees, it is beneficial to meet with the committee administrator approximately one week prior to each regular meeting to ensure all background and relevant information will be on hand for the committee to proceed efficiently through the agenda;

- call the meetings to order (if a quorum is present) and moves the members through a pre-distributed agenda;
- ensures a quorum is present prior to calling the meeting to order. If a quorum is not present at the start time, the chair must wait until a quorum is achieved or cancel the meeting. After the meeting starts, a quorum is presumed unless a member calls for a quorum count. If a quorum is not present, the meeting must adjourn;
- collaborates with the committee administrator to determine if the duty of taking minutes needs to be designated, rotated, or elected;
- keeps the order during meetings. If members interject issues off agenda, it's up to the chair to postpone such discussion until the "Other Business" section on the agenda is reached. It's then up to the chair to schedule new issues and inform the members;
- ensures the rights of the members to debate by allowing each side fair representation. For controversial issues, a time limit on debate may be used;
- does not make motions or enter into debate to ensure fairness and impartiality. The chair can provide information, correct misinformation, and help with parliamentary procedure,
- does not vote unless it's to break a tie vote or create a tie vote;
- brings policy matters and/or resolutions to the committee administrator or resolutions to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee for consideration as directed by the majority vote of the committee membership; and
- Submits the agendas, minutes, and an annual report of the committee to the Faculty Senate Office by the end of the Spring semester (except for the University Promotion and Tenure and University Athletics Committees).

Agenda & Minutes

Every committee should distribute an agenda one-week prior to the meeting along with the previous minutes for review and any supporting documents. Approved minutes are posted by the College of Graduate Studies and the College of Undergraduate Studies for the university community to review.

Quorum & Voting

Quorum for all committees is the majority of voting members. This means more than half of the voting members must be present to conduct business (for example, if 10 voting members, you must have 6 present to start the meeting). Although anyone may attend meetings as a guest (except for the University Promotion and Tenure Committee or committees discussing FERPA-protected information), only the appointed committee members may vote. No action can be taken at committee meetings unless a majority (more than half) of the voting membership is present.

Proxies

Committees may adopt policies at the start of the year to allow voting by proxy. According to Robert's Rules of Order, proxies should be written, be for a specific meeting, and be given to the committee chair before the start of the meeting. Although any faculty member may attend meetings as a guest or to bring back information to the voting member, only the voting member can vote.

Attendance

Any voting member that misses more than half of the regularly scheduled meetings in an academic year is presumed to have resigned. If a committee member is absent or unable to serve for 8 weeks or longer, an interim or permanent replacement will be appointed for the remaining term; contact the Faculty Senate Office.

Rules of Order

In the conduct of its business, the committee shall be guided by the customary rules of parliamentary procedure, insofar as these are not modified by the provisions of the *Constitution* or its bylaws. In cases of dispute recourse shall be to *Robert's Rules of Order* (latest edition).