

**CONSTITUTION
of the
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
FACULTY SENATE**

Preamble

Under Board of Regents' Policy, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Faculty Senate is formed so that the faculty may carry out its professional responsibility as the legislative body of the University of Alaska Fairbanks in matters of instruction, research/creative activity, and service.

ARTICLE I - Name

- Sect. 1* The name of the organization shall be the University of Alaska Fairbanks Faculty Senate, hereinafter referred to as "Senate".

ARTICLE II - Rights, Responsibilities and Authority

- Sect. 1* Faculty rights include the following:

- A. To exercise academic freedom.
- B. To form a representative body to develop legislation concerning the professional activities of the faculty.
- C. To have elected representatives to appropriate governance bodies.
- D. To have primary authority through the Senate to initiate, develop, review and approve academic criteria, regulation and policy with regard to the responsibilities outlined in Section 2.
- E. Other rights as may be defined under this constitution and bylaws.

- Sect. 2* Faculty responsibilities include the formulation of policies and regulations guiding:

- A. Faculty appointment, re-appointment, termination, development, evaluation and workload.
- B. Tenure
- C. Promotion
- D. Teaching
- E. Research/creative activities
- F. Advising
- G. Service
- H. Sabbatical leave
- I. Honorary degree candidates

- J. Scholastic standards
 - 1. Degree requirements
 - 2. Curriculum review
 - 3. Admission standards
 - 4. Grading policy
 - 5. Academic probation
 - 6. Academic suspension
 - 7. Academic dismissal
 - 8. Class length and structure of the academic year
- K. Other responsibilities as may be defined by the faculty under this constitution and bylaws.

Sect. 3 Further Responsibilities

- A. To advise the administration of the University of Alaska Fairbanks on academic and faculty matters.
- B. To provide faculty representatives to the appropriate governance bodies.
- C. To support student and staff constituencies on matters of mutual concern.

Sect. 4 Authority

The Senate shall carry out its responsibilities and functions subject to the authority of the Board of Regents Policy. Senate actions will be binding, subject to review, veto, and override in accordance with ARTICLE XI (Veto Powers) of this constitution.

ARTICLE III - Membership

- Sect. 1* The Senate shall be constituted according to the provisions specified in the bylaws.
- Sect. 2* Voting members of the Senate must either hold academic rank with full-time continuing appointment at the University of Alaska Fairbanks or hold special academic rank with title preceded by "research" or "term".
- Sect. 3* Senate members shall be elected from and by the faculty of their respective units, as set forth in the bylaws, to two-year terms which shall be staggered to ensure continuity.
- Sect. 4* The terms of the newly elected and appointed members shall commence at the beginning of "New Business" of the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of the academic year.
- Sect. 5* Any voting member of the Senate may be recalled according to the provisions of the bylaws.
- Sect. 6* Non-voting members of the Senate shall have voting privileges on any Senate committee on which they serve.

ARTICLE IV - Officers

- Sect. 1* The two officers of the Senate shall be the President and the President-Elect.
- Sect. 2* The President-Elect shall be elected by the Faculty Senators of the Senate for a one-year term. Eligible nominees for the office of President-Elect shall include any currently elected members of the Senate including alternates and chairs of standing and permanent committees of the Senate.

- Sect. 3* The President-Elect, after serving for one year in this position, subject to Sections 4 and 5, will automatically become President for one year.
- Sect. 4* The term of the President may be extended for one additional year by a two-thirds majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Senate. The vote will be by secret ballot and, if passed, the term of the President and the current President-Elect will be extended for no more than one additional year.
- Sect. 5* If for any reason the President should relinquish or be recalled from office, the President-Elect will automatically and immediately assume the Presidency. The Senate shall elect a Vice President to fill out the remainder of the year at which time a new election for President-Elect will be held. The previously elevated President-Elect will complete the next academic year as President.
- Sect. 6* If for any reason the President-Elect should relinquish or be recalled from office, the Senate shall elect a President-Elect to fill out the remainder of the year at which time a new election for President-Elect will be held.
- Sect. 7* The terms of the newly elected President and President-Elect shall commence at the beginning of "New Business" of the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of the academic year.

ARTICLE V - Committees

- Sect. 1* The requirements for membership on standing, permanent, and ad hoc committees of the Faculty Senate will be specified in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VI - Relation to the University of Alaska Fairbanks Governance Coordinating Committee and the University of Alaska System Governance.

- Sect. 1* The UAF Faculty Senate President and President-Elect shall represent the faculty on the University of Alaska Fairbanks Governance Coordinating Committee.
- Sect. 2* The UAF Faculty Senate President, President-Elect, and one other designee appointed by the Senate President shall represent the Senate on the University of Alaska Faculty Alliance and one will serve on the System Governance Council.

ARTICLE VII - Meetings

- Sect. 1* There shall be a minimum of seven regular meetings each academic year. Other meetings may be held on special call of the Administrative Committee of the Senate.

ARTICLE VIII - Quorum

- Sect. 1* The presence of a majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Presence may be established by participation in an audioconference.

ARTICLE IX - Parliamentary Authority

- Sect. 1* The parliamentary guidelines shall be the most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE X - Amendments

- Sect. 1* Amendments to the constitution may be proposed only by members of the Senate and copies shall be sent to all members of the Senate. Amendments must be formally read and incorporated in the minutes of a Senate meeting.
- Sect. 2* Approval of amendments to the constitution requires a two-thirds vote and cannot occur sooner than 28 days from the date of the meeting at which the amendments were first read and discussed.
- Sect. 3* Approval of amendments to the bylaws requires a majority vote.

ARTICLE XI - Veto Powers

- Sect. 1* The Chancellor's Office shall have the right to veto actions taken by the Senate relating to academic, research, service and faculty affairs. A Senate action shall be considered approved unless written reasons for a veto are received in the Senate Office within 30 days of that action being received by the Chancellor's Office. The Administrative Committee upon request by the Chancellor may extend the 30 day requirement.
- Sect. 2* Any action approved by the Senate and vetoed by the Chancellor's Office may be submitted to a reconciliation committee upon a two-thirds vote of the Senate. Up to three members appointed by the Senate and up to three members appointed by the Chancellor's Office shall constitute a reconciliation committee whose task it shall be to formulate recommendations to the Senate and the Chancellor's Office.

If the Senate and the Chancellor's Office are not able to resolve the impasse, then the Senate, upon a two-thirds vote, may elect to forward its previous action through the University of Alaska governance structure as provided for under Regents' policy.

ARTICLE XII - Faculty Referendum

- Sect. 1* A faculty referendum on any Senate action will be called when a petition containing the signatures of ten percent of the full-time, permanent faculty is filed with the Senate Office. The Administrative Committee of the Senate will call for a Senate convocation at which time any business of the Senate may be reconsidered if the majority of the faculty eligible to elect members to the Senate, as described in the bylaws, is present at the convocation.
- Sect. 2* The convocation must take place within 21 working days after the petition is filed with the Senate Office.
- Sect. 3* The Senate actions may be modified by a simple majority vote of the members at the convocation.

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