

Introductory Information for New Faculty Senators

Shared Governance at NC State

At NC State, governance is approached with an emphasis on transparency and open communications with students, faculty, and staff. This shared approach involves the provost, college deans, department heads, the faculty senate, and departmental faculty members. These entities work together to develop and implement policies and procedures that have a positive, lasting impact.

Faculty participation in the shared governance structure is achieved primarily through Faculty Senate and University Committees.

The [Faculty Senate](#) is a body of representatives from each college, school, and other NC State constituencies. This group provides advice to the chancellor and through the chancellor to the North Carolina State University [Board of Trustees](#).

[NC State University Standing Committees](#) are comprised of faculty, staff, and student representatives. Through this network of standing committees and targeted task forces, the Provost's Office coordinates a governance apparatus that engages stakeholders across campus. There are currently 15 University Standing Committees.

The [UNC System](#) is comprised of 17 system campuses, including NC State. The educational offices of each campus (the Provost's Office at NC State) work closely with the [UNC Board of Governors](#) which has the responsibility for the planning, development, and governance of the UNC System. The Board of Governors, comprised of 24 voting members elected by the NC General Assembly, sets policies and procedures that impact all the constituent campuses.

THE FACULTY SENATE

[Current Mission of the NC State Faculty Senate](#)

The North Carolina State University Faculty Senate is the sole, all-campus, faculty-elected, representative, and deliberative policy-proposing body of the University. As such, the Faculty Senate assumes an active role in the University governance system through its responses to Issues of Concern and Faculty Senate committee reports; through its engagement in University policy formation and review; and its policy resolutions, which are presented to the University administration for review and response.

A Brief History of Faculty Senate

In June 1952, the General Faculty of North Carolina State College took the first step toward creating an instrument of faculty government by approving a series of resolutions submitted by the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors. One of these resolutions requested that the Chancellor appoint a Committee on Government. It was the action of the

General Faculty in June 1954, approving that Committee's Report, which established the Faculty Senate. The Senate functioned for a trial period of five and a half years until February 1960, when the General Faculty approved its continuation on an established basis. The General Faculty in December 1961, adopted a set of Bylaws. Both the Report and the Bylaws were amended on subsequent occasions. On April 22, 1971, the General Faculty adopted a revised set of Bylaws, which incorporated and superseded the two earlier documents.

Current Senate Information

Faculty Senators are elected to two-year terms.

The Faculty Senate meets regularly at 3:00 p.m. on alternate Tuesdays during the academic year. The agenda and place for each meeting are published in advance on the Faculty Senate website.

All meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be open to the public except as provided in the Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article III, Section 4, a-b-c.

Members of the General Faculty and directly elected general officers of Student Government are specifically invited to attend Faculty Senate Meetings. Minutes of each Faculty Senate meeting are available on the Faculty Senate website. A printed copy of the minutes is available in the Faculty Senate Office.

Five Methods of Faculty Impact through Faculty Senate

- Representative – The Faculty Senate may address an issue of concern presented to it by a member of the faculty.
- Consultative–The Faculty Senate may discuss with or provide information to any administrator with authority and responsibility for a decision.
- Advisory–The Faculty Senate may recommend policies to any administrator who is authorized to make a decision.
- Shared Responsibility–The Faculty Senate may make policy recommendations to the Chancellor, Provost, and Vice Chancellors (see Section 2 below). If the Faculty Senate and the administrator disagree then they or their representatives must confer in an attempt to resolve the differences. Any failure to resolve must be addressed by the Chancellor and communicated in writing.
- Delegated Authority–The Chancellor or an authorized designee may delegate authority to the Faculty Senate on specified matters.

The Faculty Senate also engages with university administration and constituents through a number of other means including the Chair's seat on the University Council and individual meetings with the Chancellor and Provost; through Senate interactions with NC State Staff Senate, the American Association of University Professors, and faculty senates from other institutions in the UNC System; and through senator representation on the NC State Budget Advisory Committee and [University Standing Committees](#).

Faculty Senate Committees

- [Executive Committee](#): The Executive Committee is comprised of eight members of the Senate plus the Chair of the Faculty, Chair-Elect or Past-Chair (whoever is in office) and the Associate Chair (formerly called Secretary) of the Faculty Senate. The Provost serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. The Chair of the Faculty and Associate Chair of the Faculty Senate shall be the Chair and Associate Chair of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee acts for and represents the Faculty Senate, as authorized by the Faculty Senate, while the Faculty Senate is not in session. The Chair keeps the Faculty Senate informed of any ongoing activities of the Executive Committee that are not before the Senate.

- The Faculty Senate establishes and dissolves standing committees as needed. The Chair of the Faculty names the Chairs of the standing committees from the members of the Executive Committee *and names new members to each committee*.

The current standing committees of the Faculty Senate are:

- The [Academic Policy Committee](#) of the Faculty Senate is responsible for reviewing, modifying, and initiating policies related to undergraduate and graduate academic policy, regulations and reform, for both on and off-campus teaching and learning environments; faculty instructional development; faculty evaluation and assessment, teaching and advising; research; and the academic calendar.
- The [Governance, Communications, and Recruitment Committee](#) of the Faculty Senate is responsible for reviewing, modifying, and initiating policies related to matters internal to the Faculty Senate and the General Faculty. It oversees the outreach strategies for the Senate and evaluates their effectiveness in disseminating information and recruiting new members.
- The Faculty Senate [Personnel Policy Committee](#) has the following responsibilities: Related to Personnel Policy, the Personnel Policy Committee generates proposals for consideration by the University Administration concerning institutional policies and regulations that best support the work of the faculty at NC State University. This includes, but is not limited to, institutional policies and regulations relating to faculty appointment and compensation, and faculty review and evaluation for reappointment, promotion, and tenure. In addition, the committee shall review proposed or recently instituted additions to and/or revisions in existing institutional policies and regulations that impact the faculty and that have been initiated by non-faculty entities including the Provost, Chancellor, and General Administration. Such a review shall culminate with an evaluation of the quality of the support the proposed revision and/or addition presents for the work of the faculty at NC State University. The Personnel Policy Committee shall report annually or upon request concerning its activities to the Chair of the Faculty and to the General Faculty.

- The [Resources & Environment Committee](#) reviews and makes recommendations regarding policies related to the allocation and management of University resources, and maintenance of and improvements to the University environment. The environment is broadly defined to incorporate not only the physical plant but also the less tangible elements of the University's living and workplace climate that affect the ability of University faculty, staff, and students to accomplish their goals and objectives. This includes, but is not limited to, the campus physical plant; outdoor spaces; campus safety; transportation and parking; campus bookstore and other on-campus retail outlets; University housing and student life; availability and support for computers, networking, and other technological resources; and issues related to faculty, staff, and student academic freedom and ownership of work created in the course of employment and/or residence in the University.

Lead Senators

- Overview of Lead Senator Role: A lead senator from each college has an informal but important role in the Faculty Senate's communication and recruitment efforts. While all senators are elected to represent their respective constituencies and may also be involved with these responsibilities, lead senators are the primary points of contact between the senate and the administration and communications teams within their respective colleges. They also identify and encourage faculty from their colleges to run for open Senate seats and serve on hearing committees. The GoCore committee will work with the lead senator to provide them with resources and assistance.
 - Lead senators serve a term of one session (academic year). They may serve for subsequent sessions as long as they are elected members of the senate and are selected by their college
- Selection of Lead Senators: The selection process may vary from college to college. Each college should identify and select a lead senator no later than the second regular meeting of the Faculty Senate Session. The name of the lead senator should be communicated to the OFS by that time.
- Selection Guidelines: Each college is responsible for developing its own process for selecting a lead senator. All of the elected senators from a college should have input on the decision. Generally, a lead senator should be in the second year of their first term or serving a second term.

Issues of Concern

- Issues of Concern (IOC) may originate in a campus unit or with an individual. All members of the General Faculty may request information or action by the Faculty Senate if an Issue of Concern arises that cannot or is not being resolved within the college unit. Such requests should initiate with the faculty member's college Senators who will transmit the issue to the Chair of the Faculty Senate. The Chair will determine the best committee or process for addressing the issue.
- The Chair of the Faculty Senate will post IOCs on the bi-monthly agenda. Furthermore, the IOC and its status will be housed on the Faculty Senate website so that Senators

and their constituents are aware of the IOC status and resolution. IOCs with personnel or classified information need only to post that the IOC has been resolved, referred to the appropriate committee, or referred to a particular unit for resolution.

- Direct contact by members of the General Faculty with the Chair of the Faculty Senate may be accomplished by contacting the Faculty Senate office at Chair of the Faculty, Faculty Senate, 2319 D. H. Hill Library, Box 7111 (faculty_senate@ncsu.edu or 515-2279).

Faculty Senate Meetings Protocol - Zoom and In-Person

In the spirit of creating a climate that promotes productive dialogue and communication during Faculty Senate meetings, we suggest that participants and panelists adhere to the following:

- Demonstrate respect and consideration for all people.
 - Avoid speaking over others.
 - Avoid disrespectful language and commentary.
 - Do not engage in hostile comment or commentary even in jest.
 - Be mindful of power dynamics in presenting comments and commentary.
- Communicate thoughtfully with others, listen well to others, and be considerate of the multitude of views and opinions that may arise.
 - Make room for diversity of thought.
 - Remember that listening is not agreeing.
- Be respectful in discussing and debating ideas.
 - Avoid interrupting others.
 - Avoid commentary that devalues, diminishes or harasses the holder of the idea.
 - Comments should be as succinct as possible.
 - Comments should avoid rhetoric repetition.
- Rules of Engagement
 - Commenters should identify themselves and their campus affiliation along with their spoken and written comments (i.e. chat or Q&A).