President
Ben Sasse
C³ - Collaboration, Community, & Cohesiveness

Danaya Wright
Sessums/Sohn Professor of Constitutional Law
Co-Director of the Center for Governmental Responsibility
Chair – UF Faculty Senate
The organization and operation of the Faculty Senate is specified in the UF Constitution and Bylaws (linked on the general counsel and Senate websites)

The University of Florida has over 6,400 faculty members with distinguished records in teaching, research and service...

We’re pleased to have you join us!
150 senators elected from each college with proportional representation except Medicine, CALS and CLAS which are limited to 25 senators total. We represent the entire university faculty, unlike the Collective Bargaining Unit.

The Faculty Senate shall be the **legislative body of the University** thereby providing a forum for mutual exchange of ideas between senior officers and faculty. In this capacity, the Senate shall take cognizance of, and may legislate with respect to **matters that concern more than one college, school, or other major academic unit, or that are otherwise of general university interest**. In exercising its legislative function, the Senate shall make such rules, regulations, and Bylaws as it may deem advisable for the fulfillment of its duties.

Where, in this Constitution, power to act is recognized as vested in the Board of Trustees of the University of Florida, such power shall normally be exercised only after reasonable notice of such proposed action to the faculty, unit, department, school, or agency affected and an opportunity to be heard thereunto. **Governance shall be shared between the administration of the University and the faculty as represented in the Faculty Senate.**

Such shared governance is a system of dual authority and responsibility, constitutionally created, in which administrators and faculty participate in the decision and policy making process. **The purpose of shared governance is to provide avenues to University improvement and productivity through the creation of a partnership based on mutual respect and collaboration. Faculty and administrators at all organizational levels of the university shall facilitate the implementation of shared governance.**
FACULTY TITLES

- Eminent Scholar
- Graduate Research Professor
- Distinguished Service Professor, Distinguished Research Curator
- Distinguished Professor
- Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor
- Curator, Associate Curator, or Assistant Curator
- Research Scientist, Associate Research Scientist, or Assistant Research Scientist
- Scholar, Associate Scholar, or Assistant Scholar
- Engineer, Associate Engineer, or Assistant Engineer

- Extension Scientist, Associate Extension Scientist, or Assistant Extension Scientist
- University Librarian, Associate University Librarian, or Assistant University Librarian
- Master Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, or Lecturer
- PKY University Developmental Research School Professor, PKY Associate Professor, PKY Assistant Professor, or PKY Instructor
- County Extension Agent IV, County Extension Agent III, County Extension Agent II, County Extension Agent I
- Any of the above titles modified only by Clinical, Research, Extension, or Of Practice
Faculty members play a central role in shared governance at UF, in units at every level:

• University
• College
• Departments and Centers
• Statewide
FIVE PRINCIPLES OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

1. Mutuality, Collegiality and Collaboration
   Faculty and administration express support for responsibilities of one another
   Either faculty or administration can call meetings of unit
   Unit has a joint process for setting priorities for unit resources

2. Transparency
   Faculty and administration regularly report to one another
   Unit has processes that establish open meeting requirements
   Unit has readily available written guidelines & policies
FIVE PRINCIPLES OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

3. Representative Participation
   Faculty elect members and/or chairs for faculty committees
   The unit has an elected body with elected leadership that represents faculty views

4. Mutual Accountability
   Unit engages in regular evaluation of timeliness of responses to requests for information and consultation
   Unit regularly assesses effectiveness of shared governance and makes modifications where necessary

5. Clarity of Roles
   Unit has policy for areas of faculty and administration responsibilities for determination, recommendation, and consultation
   Unit has due process rules for resolution of differences between faculty and administrators
INDICATORS OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

- Board of Trustees and President verbally acknowledge the importance of shared governance
- Faculty members can express dissenting views on governance without reprisal
- Campus climate supports a diversity of ideas
- Relationships between faculty, administrators, and governing board are cooperative
- Given reasonable time, the faculty, administrators, and board respond expeditiously to requests from each other
INDICATORS OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

- Faculty committees determine educational policy, curriculum design, curriculum review, and standards for evaluating teaching and scholarship
- Faculty committees largely determine standards for hiring, retention and promotion of faculty
- Faculty sets agendas, chooses representatives and leadership, and establishes procedures for committees that oversee those areas in which the faculty has primacy
- Faculty has an influential role in developing the institutional budget
Chair – runs meetings, is Chair of the Steering Committee, serves as an ex-officio member of the UF Board of Trustees, serves as a member of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates

Chair-Elect – runs meetings in absence of Chair, serves on the Steering Committee, shadows the Chair for last 6 months (spring semester)

Past-Chair – serves as a voting member of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates and on the Steering Committee

Parliamentarian – appointed by the Chair

Secretary – appointed by the Steering Committee
SENATE MEMBERSHIP AND PRINCIPLES

• Senate members are elected proportionally according to the number of faculty in each college (with a maximum of 25), for a total of 150 Senators.

• The Faculty Senate is designed to be a deliberative body in which active and evolving discussion with colleagues shapes policy.

• Accordingly, no proxy or absentee votes are allowed.

• Absence from three consecutive meetings without notice constitutes resignation from the Senate.
UF MODEL OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

Board of Governors

Board of Trustees

President

Administration

Faculty Senate

Joint Committees

Presidential Committees

Policy Councils

Senate Committees
Liaisons to the Senate

- President and Provost
- Vice Presidents of the University
- Deans of academic units
- Registrar
- Members of the Senate Steering Committee
- Chairs of committees and councils (if not elected members of the Senate)
- Five undergraduate students
- Seven graduate students
Senators elected by the Senate are members of the Policy Councils. They are charged with making policy recommendations and serve as liaisons between the Senate and the administration within their areas:

- Academic Policy
- Budget
- Academic Infrastructure
- Research and Scholarship
- Faculty Welfare
ACADEMIC POLICY COUNCIL

- Admission and graduation requirements, majors, departments, colleges, other academic units, and other academic programs of study
- Evaluates any proposed changes in academic organization that are not contained within a single college
- Student life as it affects student academic performance
BUDGET COUNCIL

- Recommends budget priorities involving academics and research
- Monitors past budget allocations
- Makes recommendations regarding long range allocations and costs of strategic plans
Faculty Welfare Council

• Academic criteria for appointment to the faculty and for promotion and tenure
• Faculty diversity
• Matters important to the quality of faculty life
• Academic freedom
Research & Scholarship Council

- Appropriate policies and priorities to support the quality, stature, and relevance of the University’s research initiatives
- Existing, expanded and new interdisciplinary research initiatives based on the expertise of the faculty
- Matters concerning graduate and undergraduate research experience
INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

- Facilities and services necessary for academic excellence
- Libraries, computing, sustainability, historical preservation, parking, physical plant and maintenance, campus master plan
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

• Senate Standing Committees – members are elected by the Senate from the faculty at large

• Joint Committees – members are elected by the Senate and other members are appointed by the President from the faculty at large

• Presidential Committees – members are appointed by and report to the President
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<th>Joint Committees</th>
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<td>Student Petitions Committee</td>
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<td>Sustainability Committee</td>
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Officer:
- Chair, Danaya Wright, LAW
- Chair-Elect, Sarah Lynne, CALS
- Past-Chair, Amanda Phalin, BUS

Council Chairs:
- Budget, Jorg Peters
- Infrastructure, Walter O’Dell
- Research & Scholarship, Ashley Ghiaseddin
- Welfare, Stephanie Bogart
- Academic Policy, Nancy Clark

Members at Large:
- Jeremiah Blanchard, ENG
- Richard Stepp, CLAS
- Catherine Striley, GROUP 1

Liaisons:
- President, Ben Sasse
- Provost, Scott Angle
- Sr. Counsel, Taylor Rose

Staff:
- Parliamentarian, Joseph W. Little
- Secretary, Laurie Bialosky
**Why Serve in Shared Governance?**

- Help set policy that contributes to academic excellence
- Meet other faculty outside your own program
- Explore interdisciplinary potential of work at UF
- Develop an institutional memory
- Network with other leaders
Colleges and schools may be established or abolished by the initiative of the Faculty Senate with the approval of the President of the University and the Board of Trustees. The initiative for establishment or abolition of such units may also be exercised by the Board of Trustees.

Faculty shall have a shared governance role in determining any changes to the structure and character, including but not limited to forming, consolidating, transferring, closing and renaming, of the colleges, schools and departments in which they are appointed. Such changes shall require the approval of the Faculty Senate. Procedures for this process are set forth in the Bylaws.

Periodic evaluations of academic units shall be conducted in accordance with procedures adopted by the Senate.
Faculty Involvement in Academic Affairs and Selection of Administrators

The faculty of a college, or appropriate committees thereof, shall exercise control over the academic affairs of the college subject to the approval of the Faculty Senate, the President and the Board of Trustees. The faculty of the college shall establish requirements of the college for entrance and for graduation, and the form of degrees to be conferred. It shall determine the arrangement and content of the curricula.

The dean shall be appointed by the President. In making this appointment, the President shall give consideration to the opinion of the faculty of the college concerned by consultation with a special committee of at least three faculty members elected by the faculty of the college.

The director [of a school] shall be nominated by the dean of the college and approved by the President. In making this nomination, the dean shall give consideration to the opinion of the faculty of the school concerned by consultation with a special committee of at least three faculty members elected by the faculty of the school.

The chair shall be nominated by the dean(s) of the college(s) after formal consultation with a committee of the department selected by its tenured members and after consultation with others in related fields outside the department. The nominations shall be forwarded to the President for approval. In those instances where the departmental committee does not concur in the nominee of the dean(s) of the college(s), the committee’s report should be forwarded to the President along with the nomination made by the dean(s).
The policy of academic freedom and responsibilities governing the University of Florida is as set forth in the University’s policy statement reprinted in full in University of Florida regulations. The following principles are quoted therefrom: “The University believes that academic freedom and responsibility are essential to the full development of a true university and apply to teaching, research and creativity. In the development of knowledge, research endeavors and creative activities, a university faculty and student body must be free to cultivate a spirit of inquiry and scholarly criticism and to examine ideas in an atmosphere of freedom and confidence. A similar atmosphere is required for university teaching. Consistent with the exercise of academic responsibility, a teacher must have freedom in the classroom in discussing academic subjects, selecting instructional materials and determining grades. The university student must likewise have the opportunity to study a full spectrum of ideas, opinions and beliefs, so that the student may acquire maturity for analysis and judgment. Objective and skillful exposition of such matters is the duty of every instructor.”

“The established policy of the University continues to be that the faculty member must fulfill his/her responsibility to society and to his/her profession by manifesting academic competence, scholarly discretion and good citizenship. The university instructor is a citizen, a member of a learned profession and an academic officer of an educational institution. The instructor should be constantly mindful that these roles may be inseparable in the public view, and should therefore at all times exercise appropriate restraint and good judgment.”

A faculty member who believes that he/she does not enjoy the academic freedom that it is the policy of the University to maintain and encourage shall be entitled on written request to a hearing before the Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards Committee or utilize other procedures available
**Shared Governance, aka C³: Collaboration, Community, and Cohesiveness**

Faculty Governance at the University of Florida: A Brief Summary, 1906-2003 -
https://senate.ufl.edu/media/senateufledu/site-files/facultygovernance.pdf.

Report of the Presidential-Faculty Senate Joint Task Force on Shared Governance, 2003 -

Report of the Facult Senate-Presidential Joint Task Force on the Implementation of Shared Governance Structure, 2006 -

Report of the Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Task Force on the Status of Shared Governance, 2023 -
SENATE CONTACTS

• Chair: Danaya Wright
  FacultySenateChair@ufl.edu
  (352) 392-9019

• Senate Secretary: Laurie Bialosky
  lbialosky@aa.ufl.edu
  (352) 392-9019

• Senate Office: 134 Tigert
Parliamentary Procedures

Joseph W. Little
Parliamentarian
little@law.ufl.edu
Governing Documents

- University of Florida Constitution
- Faculty Senate Bylaws
- Florida Law:
  - Public Records Law (F.S. Chapter 119);
  - Government in the Sunshine (F.S. Chapter 286);
  - Florida Constitution (Article I, Section 24)
Conducting Senate Business
Robert’s Rules of Order
• Decisions are made by majority vote of the members present and voting
• Quorum = those elected members present (designated seating for in-person meetings)
• No proxy votes are recognized
Motions — a formal proposal for action requiring a group decision by vote

• To bring a motion, an elected member must first be recognized by the Chair
• Requires a second
• If seconded, moves to an open discussion
• Action should be clear, concise, and affirmative
• Outcome recorded as the official decision of the senate in the meeting minutes
Requests for Public Records


Public Records Mailbox:  pr-request@ufl.edu
Government in the Sunshine

Taylor Rose
Senior Counsel
taylor.rose@ufl.edu
Government In The Sunshine

Public Records and Open Meetings
Florida’s Sunshine Laws

Chapter 119, Florida Statutes: Public Records Law

• Any records made or received by any public agency during its official business are available for copying and inspection, unless specifically exempted by the Florida Legislature.

• Over the years has come to include not just traditional written documents but also emails, texts, photographs, audio and video recordings, and other digital media wherever and however created.
Florida’s Sunshine Laws

• Chapter 286, Florida Statutes “Government-in-the-Sunshine”: Public Meetings
  • Provides a right of access to governmental proceedings of public boards and commissions at the state and local levels.
  • Applies to any gathering of two or more members of the same board to discuss a matter that will foreseeably come before that board for action.
  • Key: The open meetings law only applies to decision-making boards; it does not apply to mere information gathering or fact-finding bodies.

• 3 Basic Requirements
  Meetings of public boards or commissions must:
  1) be open to the public;
  2) provide reasonable notice of the meetings; and
  3) Have meeting minutes recorded and made available to the public.
Public Records Menu

- Home
- FAQs
- Submit a Request
- My Request Center

FAQs

- See All FAQs

How can I obtain student records?
What is a public record?
What is the cost?
How long does it take to fulfill a public records request?
How can I get additional assistance?

Submit a Records Request
Submit a public records request to the University of Florida

My Records Center
Track the status of requests, manage account information, and download your records by logging into your account.

View FAQs
Search for an answer to a specific question. Browse frequently asked questions.

Please note, public record requests made to the University are subject to disclosure under the Florida Public Records Act.

UF Public Records http://publicrecords.ufl.edu/
Contact: John Hines, Records Custodian (FS 119.12) Email: pr-request@ufl.edu
Requests for Public Records

Public Records Portal:  publicrecords.ufl.edu

Public Records Mailbox:  pr-request@ufl.edu