

To improve our system of shared governance, this ad hoc committee is tasked with providing a recommendation to Faculty Senate Chair and the Steering Committee, on how the term and duties of the Chair, Chair-elect and Past-chair can be modified to maximize **the impact and influence of the University of Florida Faculty**, namely with respect to UF Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Advisory Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACFSC), and have the potential to be present at the table and influence the SUS Board of Governors (BOG).

**The committee's recommendations:**

The committee recommends no immediate change to the term of the University of Florida Faculty Senate Chair or any change to the cycle of Chair-elect/Chair/Past-chair noted in the University of Florida Constitution. However, the committee recommends that an incremental approach should be taken, with strides taken to optimize the time spent in each role.

**Immediate actions that would not require any Constitutional changes:**

- There needs to be an immediate restructuring of the training schedule of the Chair-elect. Training should be scheduled soon after that person's election. To facilitate the learning curve, an advisory council of past chairs should be convened annually and as needed following the election for the benefit of the Chair-elect.
- Require future Past-chairs provide a self-assessment of their term as Chair to the Steering Committee, and report whether there was a limit to their influence due to a lack of opportunity or the amount of time spent in the position. Annually, the Steering Committee should review the situation and determine if more action is warranted.

**Actions that require Constitutional or By-law changes:**

- A Senate Communications Officer, **the Governmental Liaison and Communications Officer (GLCO)**, should be created that will act as a senate liaison to the various college and unit assemblies, that will update the Steering Committee on those assemblies, maintain a Senate Newsletter and to aid the chair in communications with the faculty.
- The election should be held a month earlier, so the Chair-elect has time to acquaint themselves with the responsibilities of the position, and members and issues of BOT, ACFSC, and those in the Administration.
- Move ACFSC responsibilities from the Chair-elect to the Past-chair, though encourage attendance of the Chair-elect at all ACFSC meetings.

**Longer term options that require Constitutional or By-law changes, if deemed warranted by the Steering Committee:**

- a. Steering could start the process to increase the chair's term to a two-year cycle, preceded by one-year as chair-elect, and followed by one-year as the past-chair. This would require ACFSC representation to be the chair and alternate between the chair-elect and past-chair every other year, or
- b. Steering could start to implement a process of separate vice-chair and chair roles elected annual, without limit, and first selected by the nominating committee. Both the chair and vice chair would be ACFSC representatives.
- c. Steering could adjust the start of the Faculty Senate Chair from June 1 to July 1.

## **The Governmental Liaison and Communications Officer (GLCO)**

Eligibility: The Governmental Liaison and Communications Officer must be a member of the Senate at the start of the service.

Term of Service:

The duties of the Governmental Liaison and Communications Officer are:

1. To serve as the contact between the Faculty Senate and the UF Government and Community Relations office.
2. To participate as a faculty representative in the annual Gator Day in Tallahassee, if possible.
3. To inform the Faculty Senate of legislation that affects the university community, and coordinate ways how we can be more proactive.
4. To coordinate efforts of faculty to support initiatives that improve the well-being of the university community in matters related to legislative actions.
5. To ensure communication between the Senate officers, Senators, Steering Committee, all Faculty, and university community.
6. To maintain the Senate newsletter webpage, and oversee any surveys or other feedback about Senate affairs.
7. To serve as the Senate representative on the UF Brand Council.
8. To serve as a member of the Steering Committee.
9. To produce a document highlighting the accomplishment of the Faculty to be distributed at the formal BOT meetings along with the Faculty Senate Chair's report.
10. To perform other duties as directed by the Senate or the Senate Chair.