What is Faculty Governance?

Faculty governance is a crucial component of the shared responsibility for decision-making by all institutional constituencies. It is a central value of American higher education. At Wright State University faculty governance is grounded in the founding of the university, beginning with the establishment of Academic Council in 1966. In the early years governance also included quarterly General Faculty Meetings. Academic Council evolved into Faculty Senate in June 1997 and General Faculty Meetings were eliminated in May 2005 when faculty approved a revised Faculty Constitution. A general meeting of the university faculty may be called at need by the Senate.

What role does Faculty Governance play at Wright State?

The Powers and Duties of the Faculty Senate are detailed in Section 1 of the Faculty Constitution, and include responsibility for academic program admissions, academic standards and policies, curricula and requirements for degree and certification programs, academic calendar, and other student and faculty affairs not covered by the collective bargaining agreement. In addition, the Faculty Senate may recommend policies and investigate, discuss, make recommendations and render judgment on any matter of interest to the university.

What else does Faculty Governance do?

The Faculty Senate conducts monthly meetings to carry out business pertaining to shared governance. These meetings are conducted according to Robert’s Rules of Order. Faculty Senate has numerous standing, administrative and ad hoc committees which consider and create policy, approve curricula, and make recommendations on other aspects of university operations. A complete listing of Senate committees and their responsibilities can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

How does the Faculty Senate represent me?
Each college is proportionally represented by elected Senators based on the number of fully-affiliated faculty in the college. The Faculty Constitution governs eligibility to serve, terms of office, and conduct of elections. By electing Senators, you are putting your trust in them to represent your college. Senators should report back to their constituents on Senate activities, seek input on decision-making and listen to your concerns regarding matters under the Senate’s purview.

How do my department and college fit in?

Your department and college have committees that may be similar to, but are not affiliated with, the committees of Faculty Senate (University/Senate Committees). Department and college committees operate independently of the Senate but forward their business to the appropriate university committee for review and approval by the Faculty Senate or its delegate.

What resources will help me understand my part in faculty governance?

The Faculty Constitution was first created in 1968 as a governing document for faculty. It is housed on the Faculty Senate website. The Faculty Constitution undergoes quadrennial review, and academic policies are reviewed at minimum every five years. The Faculty Constitution is also part of Wright State University’s policies which cover all aspects of university operations. There you can find policies governing faculty (series 2000), students (series 3000), academic standards and curriculum (series 4000), research, graduate students and programs (series 5000) and conduct of research (series 6000). The university policies page also includes links to the TET and NTEF collective bargaining agreements and college and department bylaws. You will find these resources instrumental in successfully navigating your teaching career here at Wright State University.

I would like to serve on a Faculty Senate Committee. What do I do?
Each year, in mid-spring semester, the Faculty Office invites faculty members to indicate their willingness to serve on Senate standing committees by noting their first, second, and third choices on a list provided, and returning it to the Faculty Office. Faculty may also indicate willingness to serve on ad hoc committees as needed.

After the results of those committee preference responses have been tabulated, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate meets to fill all committee appointments. The Executive Committee member from each college has the responsibility of selecting representatives to each committee from his/her constituency. Filling out a form does not guarantee that you will represent your college on a University committee.

What is the ultimate goal of Faculty Governance?

Our goal is to provide a clear and effective Faculty voice in the creation of university policy, curriculum, and programs.