What is the University Senate?

The University Senate is a unicameral legislative body composed of roughly 207 peer-elected faculty, staff, and student Senators, University administrators, a Senate committee structure, and the Senate Office. The primary function of the Senate is to advise the President on University policy matters and other issues affecting our community.

Shared Governance

The Senate convenes regularly throughout the academic year to discuss, debate, and vote on a variety of topics, including (but not limited to):

- Educational policies
- Academic programs
- Campus community matters
- Long range plans
- Facilities
- Faculty/Staff/Student affairs

Much of the Senate’s work takes place within the 10 standing Senate committees. Each committee meets monthly during the academic year to research, review, and compose policies and proposals to be considered and voted on by the full Senate. The Senate Office coordinates and supports the activities of the Senate and its committees.

How can you get involved?

There are many ways to get involved in the University Senate. Any member of the campus community (which includes faculty, staff, students, and administrators) may submit an idea or proposal for consideration by the Senate. Senator elections are held annually for faculty, staff, and students. Run for a seat and be a voice for your constituency in important campus debates. Volunteer to serve on a Senate committee to help revise and craft University policy. Or, attend a Senate or Senate committee meeting to watch shared governance in action. Finally, stay up-to-date on the Senate’s activities by subscribing to our Newsletter, liking our page on Facebook, and following us on Twitter.

University Senate Committees

Academic Procedures & Standards
Campus Affairs
Educational Affairs
Elections, Representation, & Governance
Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
Faculty Affairs
Programs, Curricula, & Courses
Staff Affairs
Student Affairs
Student Conduct

In recent years, the Senate has advised the President on a variety of important issues including:

- Policy on Excused Absences
- Sexual Misconduct Policy & Procedures for Faculty, Staff, & Students
- Guidelines on Appointment, Evaluation, & Promotion of Professional Track Faculty
- Credit for Prior Learning