

### **Resolution Increasing the Transparency and Effectiveness of Faculty Senate Proceedings**

*Whereas* the Faculty Senate needs to participate more effectively in the determination of the agenda of its meetings;

*Whereas* the Faculty Senate should have adequate time for discussion and deliberation at its meetings;

*Whereas* the membership of ad hoc committees that report directly to the Faculty Senate should be approved by the Faculty Senate;

*Whereas* Article X and Article XI of the Organization and Procedures of the University Faculty (OPUF) provide that the University Faculty Committee (UFC) and the Dean of Faculty establish the agenda for Faculty Senate meetings, and Article X provides further that, “At a regular meeting of the Senate, any matter may be brought forward which is properly the concern of the Senate, but priority shall be given to the matters specified in the call of the meeting”;

*Whereas* Article VIII of the Organization and Procedures of the University Faculty (OPUF) provides, “The University Faculty Committee has the responsibility to inform and consult the Senate on a regular and frequent basis”;

*Whereas* Article VIII of OPUF provides that the Faculty Senate powers and responsibilities include, “To approve or reject the list of members and chairs presented by the Nominations and Elections Committee for appointed University Faculty committees, Senate committees, and administration or administration-faculty committees”;

*Resolved*, the Dean of Faculty shall publish the agenda of each Faculty Senate meeting no later than the morning of the Friday before the Faculty Senate meeting;

*Resolved*, at least one week before the Faculty Senate meeting agenda is published, the Dean of Faculty shall post on the Senate website and send to the Faculty Senate a draft agenda, seeking comments, suggestions, and proposed amendments regarding the content and time allocations in the draft agenda;

*Resolved*, the Dean of Faculty and the University Faculty Committee (UFC) shall each make a report at every Faculty Senate meeting, with sufficient time for questions, to fully inform the Senate of the content of the UFC’s meetings and to provide updates about measures taken to implement resolutions adopted by the Faculty Senate.

*Resolved*, the Nominations and Elections Committee shall nominate members and chairs of ad hoc committees and the Dean of Faculty shall submit such nominations to the Faculty Senate for its approval or rejection.

**Senate Sponsors:**

**Buz M. Bartow**  
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**Michael Nussbaum**  
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**Other faculty:**

**David Bateman**  
**Darlene Evans**  
**Mildred Warner**

**Rationale for the Resolution**

This resolution is intended to increase the transparency and effectiveness of Faculty Senate proceedings through procedural changes for (1) setting Senate meeting agendas; (2) reports to the Faculty Senate by the Dean of Faculty and the University Faculty Committee (UFC); and (3) ensuring Faculty Senate participation and consent in the creation of ad hoc committees. The proposals in this resolution are consistent with and designed to improve the implementation of the Organization and Procedures of the University Faculty (OPUF).

First, to increase Senate input into setting the agenda for Senate meetings, the resolution proposes a process for Faculty Senators to submit comments, suggestions or proposed amendments for the draft agenda for the Senate meeting. Adding this process is consistent with OPUF, as it recognizes the priority given to matters specified in the call to meeting, while also enhancing the Senate's

opportunity to identify to the UFC issues of concern for the meeting agenda. Second, to enhance discussions and deliberations at Faculty Senate meetings, the resolution proposes a process for regular reports to Senate by the Dean of Faculty and the UFC about the content of UFC meetings and updates about the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Faculty Senate. Finally, this resolution clarifies that the Nominations and Elections Committee's responsibility to nominate committee members and chairs, and the responsibility of the Senate to approve or reject those nominations should apply to the creation of ad hoc committees, which are often very important in our deliberations about issues of educational policy and related matters.