

Faculty Senate Documents Committee Annual Report (2020 – 2021)

The charge of the Faculty Senate Documents Committee (according to the Faculty Senate Bylaws) is to “Undertake a continuing review of the Faculty Senate governance documents: The Constitution, Bylaws, Faculty Handbook, and Procedures Manual.” The committee “works with the SVPP to assure that revisions to the Faculty Handbook are appropriate, are as approved by the Faculty Senate, and include academic and curricular policies adopted by the senate.” The committee “works with the SVPP to establish procedures for editing and style.” And “Edits for style all resolutions and motions passed by the senate that are to be included in the Faculty Handbook.”

Members

Members of the Faculty Senate Documents Committee for 2020 – 2021 were: Aaron Gassmann, Haozhe Chen, Matthew Obbink, Omar Smadi, Clinton Gudmunson, Natalie Royston, David Verhoeven, Jonathan Sturm, Denise Vrchota (Chair), and Dawn Bratsch-Prince (ex-officio).

Business

The Faculty Senate Documents Committee reviewed revisions and new policies for inclusion in the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty Handbook is updated in August and January of each year.

The committee reviewed and revised the Faculty Senate Constitution; although no substantive changes were made, the committee updated the Constitution to include the term faculty appointment, recognized the past president of the Faculty Senate as a voting officer, and converted gender specific pronouns to gender neutral pronouns. Other mechanical changes were also made. The proposed revised Faculty Senate Constitution was approved by the Faculty Senate on January 26, 2021.

The committee has recently completed a review and revision of the Faculty Senate Bylaws. Proposed revisions to the bylaws include updating titles and committee charges to reflect current practices; inserted language to clarify council members are “senators,” converted gender specific pronouns to gender neutral pronouns; and reviewed for consistency with the Faculty Senate Constitution. The proposed revised bylaws are currently under review by the Governance Council.

Appreciation is extended to the members of the Faculty Senate Documents Committee for their timely and precise attention to committee business this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Vrchota, Chair,
Faculty Senate Documents Committee