



FACULTY SENATE

FAQ

What is the Faculty Senate?

The Faculty Senate is the official representative body for the faculty at Southeastern. It consists of 20 faculty - 17 that are elected (8 from Arts & Sciences, 5 from Educational and Behavioral Sciences, 3 from the John Massey School of Business, and 1 from the Library) along with the Chair, Past Chair, and Chair Elect.

Who can serve on the Faculty Senate?

All full-time faculty (meaning those who hold faculty rank and whose primary responsibilities are teaching and research) can serve on the Faculty Senate. This includes the chairs of academic departments as well as professional librarians. Senators serve a term of 3 years and roughly a third of the seats for a given school are up for election at the start of each fall semester.

What does the Faculty Senate do?

The Senate has two main purposes - it presents the faculty position on various policies to the administration and it assists in the internal governance of the University by creating, updating, and appointing members of many of the University's standing committees. It also recognizes faculty achievement through annual awards for teaching, service, and research in each school.

How does the Faculty Senate represent the faculty to the administration?

- It can make recommendations on changing existing policies, deleting them, or suggesting new policies.
- It can pass resolutions to convey the will of the faculty on areas where policy doesn't apply or hasn't been set.
- The Executive Committee of the Senate meets directly with the President to convey faculty concerns.
- The Senate surveys the faculty to get their opinions of University priorities, the performance of various administrators, and special topics as they arise.
- The Senate organizes joint shared governance forums with the administration, with topics chosen by both the faculty and administrators.

When does the Faculty Senate meet?

The Senate sets its meeting times at the beginning of the academic year. Traditionally meetings have been set for Wednesday afternoons, either monthly (for two hours) or every other week (for about an hour). Senate meetings are open to all faculty and are occasionally attended by administrators or student representatives if they have an issue for the Senate. Agendas for each meeting are broadcast to all faculty via e-mail and the minutes and other documents are posted online.

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FAQ (continued)



How is the Faculty Senate organized?

In addition to the general meetings of the Senate, the senators also form standing committees to deal with specific charges and issues:

- **University Affairs:** The University Affairs committee deals with communication between the student body and the faculty and works on issues relating to the physical condition of the University.
- **Personnel Policies Committee:** The Personnel Policies Committee focuses on matters of University policy, including those related to salary, insurance, tenure, promotion, and post-tenure review.
- **Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee oversees the Faculty Senate awards and also assists with the development of long-term curricular goals of the academic departments.
- **Budget Committee:** The Budget committee advises the administration on budgetary matters and relates budget information back to the faculty. It also periodically surveys the faculty to see what their budgetary priorities are.
- **Committee on Committees:** The Committee on Committees appoints faculty to the general University committees, subject to the approval of the full Faculty Senate.
- **Executive Committee:** Consisting of the officers of the Senate, the Executive committee oversees the joint forums, administers the annual faculty survey, presents charges to other Senate committees, and meets regularly with President (and other administrators as needed). The members of the Executive Committee are the Chair, Chair Elect, Past Chair, Archivist, Recorder, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.

How do I get an issue before the Faculty Senate?

You can get your issue discussed by the Senate by coming to a meeting and addressing the Senate directly or you can have a senator bring it up for you (a list of current senators can be found on the Senate's homepage at <http://homepages.SE.edu/faculty-senate/>). If you want to bring the issue to the Senate yourself you should contact the Chair in advance so you can get put on the agenda and so any materials you want to have distributed can be sent ahead of time.

What has the Faculty Senate worked on recently?

A comparison of SE faculty salaries with those at similar universities (by discipline and rank).
The ongoing rewrite of Southeastern's Academic Policies and Procedures Manual.
Bringing Blackboard problems and CIDT staffing issues to the attention of the administration.
The twice-a-semester forums on shared governance.
Revising the Senate proposal for a post-tenure review policy based on faculty feedback.

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