

University Policy Statement for the Faculty Senate

In recognition of the central role the full-time faculty of Park University plays in the life of the University, and to promote collaborative processes, the University established the Faculty Senate as a body through which the Faculty participates in shared governance within the University.

The Faculty Senate, as the faculty's deliberative body, represents faculty thinking for the benefit of the institution. Since the Faculty Senate functions within the organizational context of the University, the following conditions are set forth:

- The Provost serves as the primary contact and liaison between the University and the Senate. The Administration, usually (although not exclusively) through the Provost will communicate frequently with the Senate leadership, attend and deliver reports as needed at Senate meetings, and responds to Senate recommendations and communications in a timely fashion. As the Chief Academic Officer of the University, the Provost also works with the Deans of the University's schools/colleges and with the faculty in the departments/programs. In addition, the Provost works with standing University committees.
- The role of the Faculty Senate differs from the role of the Park University Faculty Federation (Local 3576, Missouri Federation of Teachers AFL-CIO). The Federation represents members of the Faculty primarily with regard to wages, hours and working conditions and other matters covered by the Faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement.

To foster collaborative interaction, the Senate will meet regularly to provide a forum for the expression of faculty opinion and will submit to the Administration, through the Academic Affairs Office, its independent recommendations representing the collective voice of the faculty. The role of the Faculty Senate, as with any deliberative body, is to actively solicit and discuss the diverse array of faculty views and to work to forge an actionable consensus.

The Senate also serves as the mechanism through which the Faculty participates in shared governance with the Administration to advance the goals of the University. In this capacity the Faculty Senate, together with standing University and Faculty Senate committees, engages in a collaborative process through faculty representation that includes deliberating and voting on recommendations/resolutions to be submitted to the University. The Senate has the policy-recommending responsibility in curricular matters and instruction; it also plays an important role in the establishment of academic policies, regulations and procedures intended to achieve the educational objectives of the University, subject to approval by the University.