

Faculty Senate

The nature of faculty involvement in the governance system of Florida State University is set forth in the Constitution of the University, which designates the Faculty Senate as the basic legislative body of the institution. This structure has been in place since May 1931, when an amendment to the institution's constitution establishing the Senate was adopted by the general faculty and approved by the Florida Board of Control. A number of major amendments have been made since that time relating to elections, committees, and other matters. Prior to 1974, the President of the University was the presiding officer of the Senate, but an amendment that year changed the procedure to stipulate that the Senate elect annually its own President from the elected Senators comprising the body.

The Faculty Senate is composed of at least one elected representative from each college and school and one representative each from the Librarians and the Developmental Research School. Except for the two latter representatives, only full-time instructors, assistant professors, associate professors, and professors are eligible for representation in and election to the Senate. Senators serve two-year terms which begin at the April meeting of the Senate, at which time the President of the Senate is elected. The Steering Committee is composed of seven members elected by the voting members of the Senate to staggered two-year terms; the President of the Senate serves as chair of the committee.

The Faculty Senate formulates measures for maintaining a comprehensive educational policy and for maximum use of the University's intellectual resources. It determines and defines University-wide policies on academic matters, including Liberal Studies policy, admission, grading standards, and requirements for the awarding of degrees. The Senate may also formulate opinions on any subject of interest to the University and adopt resolutions thereon.

Presidents of the Faculty Senate

Wayne C. Minnick	1973-74	Marilyn Young	1994-96
Fred L. Standley	1974-75	Marie Cowart	1996-98
Wayne C. Minnick	1975-76	Robley Light	1998-00
James E. Pitts	1976-77	Karen Laughlin	2000-02
Gregory R. Choppin	1977-78	Valliere Richard Auzenne	2002-05
James E. Pitts	1978-79	James Cobbe	2005-07
Clifford K. Madsen	1979-80	Jayne Standley	2007-09
Fred L. Standley	1980-81	Eric C. Walker	2009-11
Katherine B. Hoffman	1981-82	Sandra Lewis	2011-13
H. Frederick Kreimer	1982-83	Gary Tyson	2013-15
Steve Edwards	1983-85	Susan Fiorito	2015-17
H. Frederick Kriemer*	1984-85	Todd Adams	2017-19
Merrill B. Hintikka	1985-87	Kristine Harper	2019-20
James E. Pitts**	1987-88	Eric Chicken***	2020-23
Leo Sandon	1988-90	Bridgett Birmingham	2023-25
Alan Mabe	1990-92	Roxanne Hughes	2025-
Fred Leysieffer	1992-94		

*Elected Senate President for the remainder of Dr. Edwards' term when Edwards became the Dean of the Faculties.

**After the death of Dr. Hintikka on January 1, 1987, Dr. Pitts was authorized to fulfill functions of the President for the remainder of the term. Dr. Pitts was elected President for the 1987-88 term.

***After Dr. Harper's departure from FSU on January 1, 2020, Dr. Chicken fulfilled the functions of the President for the remainder of the term.

2025-2026 Steering Committee

Roxanne Hughes (President)	Science Education
Jennifer Proffitt (Vice-Chair)	Communication
Todd Adams	Physics
Robert Atkinson, Jr.	Law
Bridgett Birmingham	University Libraries
Arash Fahim	Arts & Sciences
Tarez Graban	English
Nancy Rogers	Music Theory & Composition

Online Resource: The Faculty Senate's website can be accessed online at: facsenate.fsu.edu