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

* 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.

2020-2021 Steering Committee

Eric Chicken (President) Arts and Sciences
Erin Ryan (Vice Chair) Law
Bridgett Birmingham University Libraries
Enrique Alvarez Arts and Sciences
Petra Doan Social Sciences
Elizabeth Crowe Education
Nancy Rogers Music
Gary Tyson Arts and Sciences

Online Resource: The Faculty Senate’s website can be accessed online at: http://fac senate.fsu.edu/