



Policy Chapter: Chapter 6 Faculty Affairs

Policy Number and Title: 06.048 Charter of the Faculty Senate of the University of North Texas

I. Policy Statement

A university is a community of scholars engaged in the free discussion, research and dissemination of ideas and knowledge. To the end that the governing of this university shall embody the full freedom of discussion, participation, and examination of ideas by faculty, students, and administrators in the search for truth, the administration and the faculty of the University of North Texas hereby establish and promulgate this Charter of the Faculty Senate of the University of North Texas, in accordance with the rules of the UNT Board of Regents.

II. Application of Policy

All Full-time Faculty.

III. Policy Definitions

A. Full-time Faculty

“Full-time Faculty,” in this policy, means a person employed full-time in a benefits-eligible, salaried position by UNT as a member of the university’s tenured, tenure-track, and professional faculty, including librarian faculty, whose duties include teaching or librarianship, service, and/or scholarship. The term excludes an academic administrator who holds faculty rank, supervises other full-time faculty, and/or holds a leadership position with significant administrative duties relating to the operation of UNT (for example, department chairs, division heads, associate deans or deans, vice provosts, or provost); faculty in a nonrenewable fixed term appointment such as adjunct teaching professors; visiting professors; scholars in residence; teaching fellows; or a student who teaches as part of an educational program.

B. Shared Governance

“Shared Governance,” in this policy, means appropriate consultation with faculty in matters concerning academic policy, institutional operations, and other matters relating to the general welfare of the institution.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

Faculty Senate Charter

Preamble

The University of North Texas (UNT) is a community of scholars engaged in the creation and dissemination of knowledge. The faculty of UNT are responsible for developing, sustaining, and enhancing the intellectual quality and reputation of the institution and maintaining its academic integrity. In pursuit of these responsibilities, the Faculty Senate shall engage in

shared governance, maintain high academic standards, and embody freedom of discussion in the examination of ideas. The administration and the faculty of UNT establish this charter as a constitutional framework for the Faculty Senate or its successor organization.

Article I. Purpose and Functions

The Faculty Senate represents the view of the faculty to the administration. The Faculty Senate advocates for shared governance and encourages faculty to participate and discuss academic matters to ensure that academic quality and rigor remain a priority at UNT. The Faculty Senate serves as an advisory body and has no final decision-making authority in university policy or procedures. The Faculty Senate membership acts on academic matters and policy for the university, with due regard (1) to the requests and needs of the specific departments, divisions, schools, and colleges, (2) to the advice of the President of the university, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of the university, and (3) to the rules of the Board of Regents of the University of North Texas System, and (4) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Faculty Senate makes recommendations to the President regarding faculty-related policies.

The Faculty Senate may consider all matters of general welfare to the university including matters raised by senators, by senate committees and by the President, and, through petition, by any other administrative official or body, and by any full-time faculty member who shall then have the right to speak to the petition.

Article II. Composition

Section 1. The Faculty Senate shall be composed of no more than 60 voting senators with at least two members from each College or School within the university.

Section 2. There shall be one faculty member from each College or School within the university appointed by the President as a voting senator.

Section 3. There shall be one faculty member from each College or School within the university elected by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective College or School as a voting senator.

Section 4. The remaining voting senators shall be elected according to apportionment and balanced sampling procedures as detailed in the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Section 5. There shall be two non-voting student senators: one undergraduate student elected by the Student Government Association and one graduate student elected by the Graduate Student Council.

Section 6. A Faculty Senate member may be removed from membership in the senate for failing to conduct the senator's responsibilities within the senate's parameters, failing to attend senate meetings, or engaging in other similar misconduct. A senator may be removed on recommendation of the Provost and approval by the President.

Article III. Terms, Qualifications and Elections

Section 1. Terms. Appointed members may serve up to six consecutive one-year terms and then may only be reappointed after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most recent term. Elected members may serve a two-year term, staggered in a manner that allows approximately one-half of the elected members to be elected each year, and may only be reelected after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most recent term.

Section 2. Qualifications. Senators with voting rights must be full-time faculty as defined in this policy.

Section 3. Elections. Only full-time faculty may nominate and vote in Faculty Senate elections. Elections shall be held during the spring semester of each year in accordance with the procedures described in the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. The President shall appoint a presiding officer or Chair, an associate presiding officer or Vice Chair, and a Secretary from the members of the Faculty Senate.

Section 2. The Faculty Senate Chair shall preside over meetings of the senate and represent the senate in communication with the administration. The Vice Chair shall preside in the absence of the Chair. The Chair shall vote in full senate voting items only in the case of a tie vote.

Section 3. The term of Faculty Senate officers shall be one year from July 1 to June 30.

Section 4. A Faculty Senate officer may be removed from office in accordance with the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. The Faculty Senate shall meet in accordance with the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Section 2. The Faculty Senate shall conduct meetings at which a quorum is present in a manner that is open to the public and in accordance with procedures prescribed by the President. The Faculty Senate shall define rules for establishing a quorum within the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Section 3. The Faculty Senate shall record the names of members attending the monthly senate meetings.

Section 4. The Faculty Senate monthly meetings shall broadcast over the Internet live video and audio, as applicable, if more than 50 percent of the members are in attendance.

Section 5. The Faculty Senate shall make the monthly meeting agenda publicly available on its website no later than the seventh day before the meeting, including the details of any voting item, curriculum proposal, a vote of no confidence regarding an institution or system administrator, or policies related to curriculum and academic standards.

Section 6. Special meetings of the Faculty Senate may be called in accordance with the

Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Article VI. Bylaws

The Faculty Senate shall create and maintain Bylaws that provide organizational rules for the operation of the senate.

Article VII. Committees

The committees of the Faculty Senate shall include an Executive Committee, standing committees, elected committees, and ad-hoc committees to carry out its work. The voting members of Faculty Senate committees shall be restricted to full-time faculty. The details of committee membership, leadership, duties, and responsibilities shall be defined within the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Article VIII. Amendments to the Charter

Section 1. Initiation of Charter Amendments.

Amendments to the Charter of the Faculty Senate may be initiated in the following ways:

Sub-section a. Upon motion and approval by the Executive Committee, in accordance with the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Sub-section b. Upon request of the President.

Sub-section c. Upon petition of 20 percent of the full-time faculty calling for an amendment, in accordance with the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Section 2. Ratification of Charter Amendments.

A properly initiated amendment to the Faculty Senate Charter shall be submitted to a ratification vote of the Faculty Senate. The amendment is ratified only upon affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of those voting for or against the amendment.

V. Revision History

Policy Contact:	Policy Director, Office of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs
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