

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY SENATE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE**

*The faculty of the University of Alaska Anchorage establishes this constitution to govern the workings of its Faculty Senate. The Senate provides a forum for addressing university-life issues (curriculum, student success, institutional organization, and professional development) and represents faculty as part of UAA shared governance.*

### **ARTICLE 1. NAME**

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be the Faculty Senate of the University of Alaska Anchorage (hereafter referred to as Faculty Senate).

### **ARTICLE 2. PURPOSES, RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY**

**Section 1.** The Faculty Senate shall carry out its functions subject to the statewide authority of the Board of Regents within the laws of the State of Alaska (BOR Policy 03.01).

**Section 2.** The purposes of the Faculty Senate are

- A. To provide official representation for faculty of the University of Alaska Anchorage in matters that affect the general welfare of the University and its research, creative activities, and educational programs.
- B. To serve as an agency by which information of general concern and interest to the University of Alaska Anchorage faculty may be freely collected, discussed, and disseminated.
- C. To function as the legislative body having primary authority to initiate, develop, review, and recommend policy of the University of Alaska Anchorage, including but not limited to

(1) Academic Matters

- (a) degree requirements
- (b) program approval
- (c) course approval
- (d) admissions policies
- (e) instructional policies
- (f) transfer policies
- (g) academic advising

(2) Faculty Matters

- (a) tenure
- (b) promotion
- (c) leave
- (d) professional ethics
- (e) faculty development
- (f) grants
- (g) appointment, reappointment, and termination
- (h) other matters affecting the welfare of the faculty

(3) Physical Facilities and Equipment

- (a) academic computing
- (b) instructional technology
- (c) classrooms
- (d) laboratories, research, and creative arts facilities
- (e) other facilities affecting the quality of instruction and scholarship

(4) University Community

- (a) diversity
- (b) continuing education
- (c) safety
- (d) community outreach
- (e) other issues affecting students, faculty, and the community

D. To provide consultative and advisory services to the Chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage in matters including but not limited to

- (1) budget
- (2) calendar
- (3) administrative appointments
- (4) physical facilities
- (5) telecommunications
- (6) computing
- (7) creation of or changes to institutes or centers
- (8) offices
- (9) parking
- (10) other matters affecting the general welfare

E. To provide consultative and advisory services to the Faculty Alliance in matters including but not limited to

- (1) budget
- (2) calendar
- (3) administrative appointments
- (4) physical facilities
- (5) computing
- (6) distance education
- (7) e-learning
- (8) coordination
- (9) telecommunications
- (10) research, scholarship, and creative activities
- (11) other matters affecting the general welfare

### ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** Those eligible for membership in the Faculty Senate shall be tenure-track or term faculty members with a non-administrative assignment of .5 F.T.E or greater.  
These members must hold the rank of Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor. Faculty members on any type of leave must be able to attend at least eighty percent (80%) or more of Faculty Senate meetings or they are not eligible to serve as members of the Faculty Senate and must relinquish the position.

**Section 2.** The membership of the Faculty Senate shall consist of elected representatives (hereafter referred to as Senators).

**Section 3.** Each of the following units shall elect Senators at a ratio of one Senator per fifteen eligible members, with each unit having at least one Senator. Senators will be elected to staggered two-year terms.

- A. College of Arts & Sciences
- B. College of Business & Public Policy
- C. School of Education
- D. College of Health
- E. Community & Technical College
- F. College of Engineering
- G. Consortium Library
- H. Kenai Peninsula College
- I. Kodiak College
- J. Matanuska-Susitna College
- K. Prince William Sound College

The faculty of schools and colleges with departments or other logical subdivisions may vote to apportion the selection of senators to represent departments or groupings.

**Section 4.** There shall be eight Senators elected at large.

**Section 5.** A faculty member may vote or be nominated for Senate representative in only one unit.

That unit must be the unit of primary appointment or, in the case of evenly split appointment, the unit of the faculty member's choice.

Two faculty members may share a committee/board position if at least one of the faculty members is on the semester system or on leave. The names of the two faculty members sharing the committee/board position and the portion of the term each will cover will be on the ballot.

**Section 6.** Senators shall be elected no later than February 15. Voting will be by secret ballot. Candidates shall be elected by a simple majority of those responding. If two seats of unequal duration are available, the faculty member with the greatest number of votes serves the longer term. If a faculty member wins both an at-large senate position and a unit senate position, the Faculty Senate Executive Board will determine which one of the offices will be filled by that member.

Ties will be broken using a randomized method (e.g. a coin flip).

**Section 7.** The terms of newly elected Senators shall commence at the beginning of "New Business" of the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of the academic year.









**Section 4.** Following the second reading, the amendment shall be voted on by all faculty members eligible to serve as a Senator, as described in Article III, section 1, of this Constitution. Amendments shall be approved by at least a two-thirds vote. The vote shall be considered invalid if fewer than twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting membership respond. A Motion to Reconsider may be made only at the following scheduled meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 10. REFERENDUM**

**Section 1.** Any tenure-track or term faculty member with a teaching load of at least fifty percent 50% may bring a motion before the Senate by submitting a petition signed by a minimum of twenty percent (20%) of the full-time faculty.

- A. The petition shall be considered to second the motion.
- B. The Senate must consider this motion at the meeting following the submission of the petition.
- C. This petition may include a requirement that the entire faculty be notified of the discussion of the petition on the Senate floor and that interested faculty members be included in the floor discussions.
- D. This petition may include a requirement that the vote be put to all tenure-track and term faculty who are eligible to be elected to the Faculty Senate by secret ballot.

**Section 2.** If a petition is submitted to rescind or amend an action of the Senate,

- A. The Senate shall, after discussion, vote on the motion to rescind or amend the motion. If the Senate concurs with the motion, the original action shall be considered rescinded or amended as appropriate.
- B. If the Senate does not concur with the motion, the question shall be put to the entire faculty by secret ballot.

**Section 3.** If a question is put to all tenure-track and term faculty eligible to be elected to the Faculty Senate, voting will be by secret ballot, supervised by the officers of the Senate and will be passed by a simple majority of those responding. The vote will be considered invalid if less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the faculty respond.

#### **ARTICLE 11. EFFECTIVE DATE OF ENACTMENTS**

**Section 1.** Enactments of the Faculty Senate shall become effective upon the recommendation of the Provost and the approval of the Chancellor.

**Section 2.** The Chancellor shall act to approve or disapprove any enactment of the Faculty Senate within 15 working days of the date it is submitted for approval.

**Section 3.** Approval of a Faculty Senate action by the Chancellor constitutes approval of the enactment. Actions of the Senate may not be partially approved and partially disapproved nor may they be approved as modified or amended by the Chancellor.

**Section 4.** The Chancellor shall convey in writing to the Faculty Senate the reasons for disapproval within 15 working days of the date of the disapproval.



**Section 5.** Any action approved by the Senate and disapproved by the Chancellor may be submitted to a reconciliation committee upon a two-thirds vote of the Senate. Up to three members appointed by the Senate and up to three members appointed by the Chancellor shall constitute a reconciliation committee whose task it shall be to formulate recommendations to the Senate and the Chancellor.

**Section 6.**