

University of Denver
Faculty Senate
New Senator Orientation Materials

AY 2020-2021

The Faculty Senate is empowered by its Constitution to be the primary body through which the faculty participate in the collaborative governance of the University of Denver. The Senate is composed of approximately 100 Members, who are elected to represent the academic units of the University. The Senate's meetings are held monthly--and sometimes more frequently-- throughout the academic year. During COVID times, we are meeting every three weeks--at least for Fall 2020.

The minutes of the most recent meetings can be found here (you need to sign in to see the content):
<http://portfolio.du.edu/fsminutes2020>

Much of the Senate's work is accomplished through its five Standing Committees:

1. Academic Planning
2. Financial Planning
3. Nominations, Credentials & Rules
4. Personnel
5. Student Relations

The Senate Executive Committee includes the Chairs of the five Standing Committees, the President, the President-Elect or Past President, the Secretary, and several at-large members.

Below you will find:

- Info on Fall 2020 Schedule of Senate Meetings
- Description of Faculty Senate Committees
- Visit the front page of the Senate Website for updates, for Zoom recordings (of some, not all, Senate meetings) and for some short "how to" videos on how to raise motions, make amendments, and generally use your voice on the Senate "floor"!

Fall 2020 Meetings

Currently meetings are scheduled every third Friday by Zoom; please visit the front page of the Senate webpage to find the dates. You will also be receiving Outlook calendar Zoom invites. To remain responsive to changing needs, additional Special Senate Meetings might be scheduled.

Meetings are every 3rd Friday from 11:30-1:30. We will also have **pre-meeting "cafeteria chat"** from 11-11:30 so that Senators can have some time to just catch up and say hello.

During Senate meetings, all comments are part of the official record and sometimes we record meetings (depending on the agenda). During these Zoom times, we have opted to disable the chat function on Zoom. If you would like to speak, please raise your hand (using the Zoom hand-raise function).

Find our Constitution and By-Laws here:

- Constitution
- By-Laws

The Executive Committee

Functions shall be to represent the Senate when the Senate is not in session, to coordinate the work of the other standing committees, to conduct long-range planning for the Senate, and to prepare the agenda for meetings of the full Senate.

1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once per quarter with the Chancellor, with the Provost (see V.B.2) and with the Vice-Chancellor for Business and Financial Affairs (see V.B.3).

The Academic Planning Committee

Shall normally be composed of no fewer than ten Senators. This committee shall recommend to the Senate policies pertaining to curriculum and quality of instruction; research and scholarship funding, instructional and scholarly technology, and long-range planning to the extent that such issues arise. The following Faculty Senate appointments to University committees shall be made from the Academic Planning Committee (or appointees shall become members of the Academic Planning Committee):

1. For a two year term, one representative to the Undergraduate Council; for staggered two year terms two representatives each to the Library Advisory Committee and the Graduate Council (one to represent the three faculties and the other to represent the professional schools).
2. The Academic Planning Committee shall meet twice per year with the Associate Provost for Research to review and make recommendations on applications for faculty research funding.
3. The committee shall meet once per quarter jointly with the Executive Committee and the Provost.

The Financial Planning Committee

Shall normally be composed of no fewer than six Senators.

1. This committee shall, in consultation with the Executive Committee, initiate such studies of financial policy as may contribute to the maximum effectiveness of the program of the University. It may also engage in studies requested by the administration through the Executive Committee of the Senate.
2. The committee shall meet once per quarter jointly with the Executive Committee, the Provost, and the Vice-Chancellor for Business and Financial Affairs.

The Nominations, Credentials and Rules Committee

Shall normally be composed of no fewer than six Senators. This committee shall establish procedures for nomination and election of officers and shall make nominations.

1. It shall determine eligibility for membership in the Senate, in accordance with II.B; shall appoint standing committees, in accordance with §V.C; keep files of committee memberships; inform each voting unit when a Senate seat is vacated; and, shall periodically consider the need for bringing the Constitution and By-Laws into conformity with current Senate practice.
2. The committee shall, upon request of the President or the Executive Committee, assist in appointing Senate representatives to all-University committees.

The Personnel Committee

Shall normally be composed of no fewer than six Senators.

1. This committee shall evaluate and recommend to the Senate all matters of policy respecting academic freedom, tenure, rank, advancement, evaluation, and improvement of services, salaries, and retirement annuities for faculty.
2. The committee shall also consider and evaluate requests for sabbatical leaves and recommend faculty recipients of University honors.

The Student Relations Committee

Shall normally be composed of no fewer than six Senators.

1. This committee shall investigate and make recommendations regarding academic and non-academic components of student and alumni life at the University.
2. It shall also pay attention to student support services such as computing access, the Driscoll University Center, the Daniel L. Ritchie Sports and Wellness Center, the Robert Yegge Student Center, and the bookstore.
3. The committee shall facilitate communication regarding these issues among faculty, staff, administrators, students and alumni.
4. The committee shall meet at least once per quarter with Associate Provosts and Vice Provosts in the undergraduate and graduate areas and at least once per year with the Executive Director of Alumni Relations.

Faculty Review Committee

Function: the committee shall consider for review, investigation, evaluation and report, three kinds of complaints by faculty members:

1. Grievances respecting faculty status, working conditions, and appointments;
2. Grievances respecting salary allocations, providing that a pattern of inequity extending over at least a two-year period is alleged; and,
3. Grievances respecting reappointment, promotion, tenure or dismissal, if the Provost has recommended in the negative and the appellant alleges lack of adequate consideration (per guidelines described in Policies and Procedures

Relating to Faculty Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure) or violation of academic freedom.

Faculty Athletic Committee

Function: the committee shall protect the academic integrity of the University and insure the primacy of the educational experience in athletic programs, in three ways:

1. Formulating and recommending policy to the Provost regarding all aspects of athletic programs at the University, including, but not limited to, policies to assure that athletes have the opportunity to participate fully in the processes of educational and career development, and to assure that admissions officers, administrators, faculty and students are protected from inappropriate pressures associated with athletic performance;
2. Monitoring the educational experiences of student-athletes and the impact of athletics on all academic programs at the University; and,
3. Assuring that there is regular and open sharing of information with the University community about all aspects of the University's athletic programs, including information about new and existing policies, information about the academic performance of student athletes and academic support services for them, and information about the finances of athletic programs and their impact on the University budget.