

# **THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA CHARTER OF THE FACULTY AND THE FACULTY SENATE, NORMAN CAMPUS**

## **MISSION**

The University of Oklahoma faculty are committed to advancing the University's mission through shared governance, fostering a vibrant academic community, and promoting excellence in teaching, research, and service.

## **THE FACULTY**

### **COMPOSITION**

Collectively, regular and non-regular shall be termed "Faculty."

*Regular Faculty.* The Regular Faculty of the University is composed of all faculty members with tenure track, tenured, and renewable term appointments at the rank of assistant professor, associate professor, and professor as defined in relevant Regents' policies.

*Non-regular Faculty.* The non-regular faculty is composed of non-tenure track faculty members as defined in relevant Regents' policies at the rank of instructor, lecturer, senior lecturer, research assistant professor, research associate, research associate professor, research professor, research scientist, senior research associate, and senior research scientist.

### **POWERS**

All legislative powers of the faculty of the University relative to the University as a whole are vested in the Faculty. These legislative powers shall be exercised either directly by the Faculty or by the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate shall remain responsible to the Faculty for all actions taken on its behalf.

### **OFFICERS**

The officers of the Faculty shall be the officers of the Faculty Senate: Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary. These three officers shall constitute the leadership of the Executive Committee of the Faculty and shall develop the agenda for meetings and otherwise fulfill the duties described in the bylaws.

### **MEETINGS**

The Faculty shall meet at least once each year and at other times upon call by the Executive Committee. Such a call may originate from the President of the University or from a petition submitted to the Chair by 30 faculty members representing two or more degree-recommending divisions. A minimum of 20 percent of the Faculty on the Norman campus shall constitute a quorum. Meetings may be held either in person or virtually.

## **THE FACULTY SENATE**

### **PREAMBLE**

The faculty of the University of Oklahoma, to advance the mission of the university and promote academic excellence, affirm the Faculty Senate as a vital instrument of shared governance. Recognizing that the faculty's expertise and dedication are essential to the university's success, the faculty are committed to working collaboratively with the administration, staff, and students to shape the policies and direction of the institution. Through open communication, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to the principles of higher education, the faculty seek to create a vibrant and inclusive academic community that fosters intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and the pursuit of knowledge.

## **COMPOSITION**

The Faculty Senate shall consist of 60 members of the Faculty. The senators shall be elected to three-year terms in the degree recommending divisions of the University. The electors shall consist of members of the Faculty as allowed by their distribution of effort and terms of appointment. Administrative personnel above the department level shall be excluded from elections of the Faculty Senate. Assistant Deans, Associate Deans, and Deans are not eligible for Faculty Senate positions or Faculty Senate Committees.

In the Faculty Senate, seats shall be allocated as follows: one seat to each degree-recommending division with at least one percent of the total faculty. Members of the Faculty who are not members of a degree-recommending division of the University, or who are in a degree-recommending division with less than one percent of the total faculty, shall be treated as a separate division. The balance of the seats will be allocated among faculty members placed in this separate division according to a triennial apportionment proposed by the Faculty Senate and approved by the Faculty. Degree-recommending divisions with no faculty members will be allowed to appoint a faculty member as an ex-officio member with all the rights and privileges of senate membership excluding the right to vote in official Faculty Senate actions.

Up to five students, including both graduate and undergraduate, chosen by the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association, may serve as official student representatives to the Faculty Senate. Without voting privileges, these representatives will observe, participate in discussion, and maintain communication with the Student Government Association in regard to Senate actions. Up to six representatives of the Staff Senate of the University of Oklahoma and one representative of the Senior Vice President and Provost's Office also may attend meetings and participate, without voting privileges, in Senate discussion.

## **ELECTION PROCEDURE**

Before the end of March each year, the Faculty Senate officers shall notify the dean of each constituent faculty of the number of senators, which that faculty shall elect for the ensuing year. Those senators shall then be elected in April or May. They shall assume their duties in September and ordinarily will serve three-year terms.

The Faculty Senate shall maintain the roster of Faculty Senate membership. At any time that a vacancy occurs, the Faculty Senate shall notify the appropriate dean so that immediate steps may be taken to elect a replacement to serve the unexpired portion of the three-year term.

The Secretary of the Faculty Senate will continuously monitor absences. When in a given academic year, a senator has accumulated four absences; that senator is to be dropped automatically from the membership of the Senate. The Secretary will notify the appropriate dean to take immediate steps to provide a replacement for the remainder of that senator's term.

## **POWERS**

The Faculty Senate shall exercise the legislative powers of the faculty of the University as delegated by the Faculty. The Faculty Senate shall have the power to initiate any legislation requiring the Board of Regents' approval.

The Faculty Senate shall determine its own rules; procedures, including voting procedures; time, place and manner of meetings; and regulations governing its internal affairs. The Faculty Senate may also establish standing and special committees. The Faculty Senate shall establish and publish its own set of operational procedures and bylaws.

The Faculty Senate shall elect a Chair, a Chair-Elect, a Secretary, and such other positions as specified in the bylaws. Each standing committee of the Faculty Senate is authorized to select non-Senate members of the Faculty in compliance with specifications outlined in committee and council charters and governing documents. Students may be asked to serve, and, in such cases, will be appointed by the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association.

The Faculty Senate may establish procedures to review the various functions of the University and any matter affecting the welfare of the University. Subjects for either review or legislation may be brought to the attention of the Senate by written communication either from any member of the University community or from any officially constituted agency.

The Faculty Senate shall liaise with the President, Provost, and OUHSC as described in the bylaws on issues pertaining to faculty.

### **AMENDMENT OF THIS CHARTER**

This charter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of faculty, provided that no amendment shall be effective until it shall have been approved by the Board of Regents.

A proposal to amend the Charter may originate by vote of the Faculty Senate or by motion in a meeting of the Faculty. In those cases, in which the proposal originates through Senate action, the proposal must be submitted to the Faculty, and consideration for the adoption of the proposal by the Faculty shall not occur until the expiration of 30 days after the notification of the Faculty. If the proposal originates in the Faculty, it shall not be considered for adoption until the expiration of 30 days and not more than 90 days after the members of the Faculty have received copies of the proposal from the Faculty Senate.

The Faculty Senate may update language within the charter to mirror changes to the names of campus entities and positions without a formal vote of the faculty.