UW-Platteville Faculty Handbook: Chapter Four

Title*:* 4.1 Faculty Constitution

Keywords: faculty constitution

Policy Approval Date: August 27, 2015 General Faculty Meeting

Policy Source and Authority for Approval: Faculty, Faculty Senate

Policy Statement:

The Faculty Constitution

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The Faculty Constitution

Article I Authority

Section 1 The Chancellor
The Chancellor shall be the executive head of the university and shall be vested with the responsibility of administering Board of Regents policies under the coordinating direction of the president of the University of Wisconsin System, and be accountable and report to the president and the board on the operation and administration of the university. Subject to board policy, the Chancellor and faculty shall be responsible for determining academic standards and establishing grading systems, defining and administering university standards for peer evaluation and screening candidates for appointment, promotion and tenure, and recommending individual merit salary increases. The Chancellor in consultation with the faculty shall be responsible for administering associated auxiliary services and administering all funds, from whatever source, allocated, generated, or intended for the use of the university.

Section 2 The Faculty
The faculty of the university, subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president, and the chancellor of the university shall be vested with the responsibility for the immediate governance of the university and shall actively participate in university policy development. As such, the faculty shall have primary responsibility for academic and educational activities and faculty personnel matters. The faculty shall determine their own faculty organizational structure and select representatives to participate in institution governance.

Article II Name, Membership, and Purpose

Section 1 Name and Membership
The faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville hereby organize and associate themselves together under the name “Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.” In this Faculty Constitution and the Faculty Bylaws, “faculty” refers to persons who hold the rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor or instructor in an academic department (or its functional equivalent) or the library. We herewith designate academic staff librarians as having faculty status, according to the provisions of UWS 1.05.

Section 2 Purpose
The purpose of this organization is to provide a structure of university governance through which all members of the faculty may participate fully in university policy formation so that all members may enjoy the privileges and undertake the responsibilities of contributing their understanding and abilities to the achievement of the university's mission. This presupposes an open university; that is, that all information necessary to identify the need for, and the formulation of, the policy shall be made freely available.

Article III Meetings

Section 1 The Chair
The chair of the Faculty Senate shall preside over the meetings of the faculty. In the case of the chair's absence, the vice-chair shall preside.

Section 2 Regular Meetings
The faculty shall hold two (2) regular meetings each academic year, the first during September and the second during the first month of the second semester. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, in consultation with the Chancellor and faculty, shall set the time, place, and agenda of regular faculty meetings. The chair shall ensure that all faculty are apprised of the time, place, and agenda of each regular meeting at least one calendar week in advance.

Section 3 Special Meetings
Special meetings of the faculty shall be called by the chair of the Faculty Senate:

a. upon the vote of the Faculty Senate, or
b. upon the petition of 20 percent of the faculty membership, or
c. at the request of the Chancellor.

The chair shall ensure that all faculty are apprised of the time and place of, and the reason for, the special meeting at least one full working day prior to the meeting. Only subjects referred to in the call may be considered at the meeting.

Section 4 Summer Session Faculty Meetings
Special meetings of the summer session faculty may be called by the Faculty Senate chair, or at the request of the Chancellor, or on petition by 20 percent of the summer school faculty, and with proper notice and restricted agenda as specified in Section 3. Decisions of the summer school faculty shall serve as an interim for the period of the summer session, but if they have implications for university policy beyond the end of the summer session, such decisions shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the first regular faculty meeting at the beginning of the fall semester for reconsideration.

Section 5 Attendance
It is the obligation of faculty to attend all regular and special meetings of the faculty.

Section 6 Quorum
At least 33% of the membership as defined in Article II, Section 1, under contract at the time of the meeting, shall constitute a quorum.

Article IV Graduate School and College Faculties

Section 1 Organization and Membership
There shall be an organization of the faculty of each of the colleges of the university, and the graduate school. The membership of each, as well as its internal structure and procedures, shall be set forth in a constitution and bylaws established by vote of each faculty and approved by the Faculty Senate.

Section 2 Responsibilities
The faculty of each college and the graduate school, consistent with the policies and authority of the board, the Chancellor, the general faculty, and the Faculty Senate, and in accordance with its own constitution, shall:

a. actively participate in all college or graduate school policy development, and
b. determine (without limitation because of enumeration) its representatives as appropriate to the various university policy councils, commissions, and committees, and determine who shall serve on the college compensation committee according to the provisions of the Faculty Bylaws.

Article V Faculty Senate

There shall be a Faculty Senate representative of and responsible to the general faculty. The membership and responsibilities of the senate shall be set forth in the Faculty Bylaws.

Article VI Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the general faculty, provided that:

a. no fewer than half of the total faculty membership as defined in Article II, Section 1 casts a ballot and

b. a notice of any proposed change shall be read or delivered to all faculty present in at least one meeting (special or regular) of the general faculty occurring at least one week prior to the date of voting.

c. The voting may be by mail ballot provided that the faculty shall adopt, by a simple majority, such a procedure as the means of voting on the proposed change at the general faculty meeting where the proposed change is read or delivered to those faculty present under Section b of this article. For the purpose of amending this constitution, a quorum need not be present at the special or regular meeting in order to constitute an official reading or delivery to the faculty of the proposed change. If a mail ballot is adopted as a means of voting on the proposed change, the proposed change must also be delivered to all faculty by mail at least one week prior to the due date of the mail ballot.