

Purdue University Fort Wayne
CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY
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CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE

PREAMBLE

The Faculty of Purdue University Fort Wayne is a community of scholars whose purpose is to engage in creative endeavor and to share and disseminate its products, such as knowledge or artistic expression, with their peers world-wide, their students in the classroom, and the people and businesses in the region, seeking the betterment of all. As such, the Faculty identifies itself with the long tradition of scholars governing themselves in all matters that pertain to their academic and educational mission.

This Constitution states the basic structure of the Faculty's self-governance (spelled out in more detail in the Bylaws of the Senate) and what powers and responsibilities the Faculty deems best to exercise or to assume in line with the "Delegation of Authority and Responsibility to the Faculty" made by the Purdue Board of Trustees in May 1964 [and amended June 7, 2024](#). While this document was discussed, amended, and approved in a spirit of productive cooperation with the administration, it is understood that everything in it must align with Purdue University policy and is subject to review from the Purdue Board of Trustees.

I. DEFINITIONS

A. For the purpose of this document:

1. Purdue University Fort Wayne shall be referred to as "the University" or "PFW," and the words "major unit" shall mean "college, school, or the library" (where "school" means "school outside a college");
2. the Fort Wayne Senate shall be referred to as "the Senate" (which includes its bodies), the Executive Committee shall be that of the Senate, and the Bylaws shall be the "Bylaws of the Senate" as adopted by the Senate;
3. the ranks of assistant, associate or (full) professor shall always, unless specifically noted otherwise, include those designated "clinical" or "of practice" as well as those that are named. Lecturer, if used unspecified, shall always include the ranks of lecturer and senior lecturer.

B. **Positions of academic rank** shall include professor, librarian, associate and assistant professor or librarian, instructor and senior instructor as well as lecturer and senior lecturer.

C. The **Faculty** shall be composed of the chief administrative officer of PFW, and those employees of PFW who hold academic rank.

- D. The **Voting Faculty** shall consist of those members of the Faculty who are full-time or on partial retirement and who
1. hold appointments with the rank professor, associate or assistant professor in academic units and perform duties at least half of which consists of teaching or other creative/scholarly work; or
 2. hold appointments with the rank of librarian, associate or assistant-librarian; or
 3. hold the rank of clinical instructor, instructor, or senior instructor.
- E. **Associate Members of the Faculty** shall consist of emeritus/emerita, visiting members of the Faculty, and persons who hold academic appointments without being Faculty as defined above. These individuals shall have the privilege of attending Faculty assemblies and convocations, but shall not possess the right to vote during Faculty convocations.

II. CERTIFICATION

Certification of the names, affiliations, and classifications of all members of the Faculty shall be made annually, as of January 15 and by January 25, by the chief academic officer of PFW to the Clerk of the Faculty. Changes in the eligibility of individuals to vote, speak, or stand for elective office shall be effective immediately, but the January certification shall apply in defining the size and distribution of the Voting Faculty for procedures such as establishing a quorum, establishing a given fraction of the Voting Faculty, and apportionment.

A member of the Faculty who serves in more than one major unit shall be counted among the Faculty of the unit to which the most service is assigned; a member of the Faculty who serves equally in two or more major units shall inform the chief academic officer, prior to the annual certification, of the unit in which they wish to be counted.

III. GOVERNING BODY: THE SENATE

The Faculty shall govern itself through the Senate, which shall exercise its powers and responsibilities through the Voting Faculty. Its decisions in exercising these powers and responsibilities shall be final except under the circumstances specifically described in this document.

A. Membership

1. **Composition.** The Senate shall be composed of
 - a. the President of Purdue University (ex officio, non-voting);
 - b. the chief administrative officer of PFW (ex officio, non-voting);
 - c. the chief officers in charge of each of the major administrative areas at PFW (ex officio, non-voting);
 - d. the chief academic officer of PFW (ex officio, non-voting);
 - e. the chief academic officer of each major unit (ex officio, non-voting);
 - f. Faculty Chairs of the Senate;

- g. additional members of the Voting Faculty selected as Senators according to procedures in this Article;
 - h. the elected representative of the lecturers at PFW.
2. **Eligibility.** Any member of the Voting Faculty is eligible for election to the Senate.
 3. **Term of Office.** The term of office for an elected senator shall be three years, beginning one week before the beginning of regular fall classes following election. Each major unit shall establish a method for promptly filling vacated seats.
 4. **Apportionment.** Senate membership shall be apportioned among the major units according to the number of Voting Faculty comprising those units. One member shall be allocated to each unit for every six Voting Faculty in that unit; all major units must be allotted at least one senator. The representative of the lecturers does not count toward a major unit's apportionment.
 5. **Nomination and Election.** Apportionment for the following academic year, according to Part 4 above, shall be made known to the major units by February 1. Methods of nomination and election, and of filling seats vacated before the end of a term, shall be proposed and implemented by the Voting Faculty of those units according to methods consistent with generally accepted principles of democratic representation. These methods must be defined in the documents that explicate the protocols of faculty governance within each unit and the election procedures must be approved by the Senate by simple majority vote. These election procedures must be published on the Senate web site along with copies of the Senate Constitution and Bylaws. The names of the incoming senators shall be made known to the Clerk of the Senate by March 1.

B. The Officers

1. Executive authority in the Senate shall be vested in three individuals known collectively as the **Faculty Chairs of the Senate**.
 - a. *Election of Faculty Chairs.*
 - i. Faculty Chairs shall be elected by the Voting Faculty to a three-year term. A Faculty Chair may not serve more than two consecutive full or partial terms and may not serve more than six consecutive years in total.
 - ii. Their election shall be conducted annually prior to March 1, with the term of office to commence with the Fall Senate following election.
 - iii. The three Faculty Chairs shall serve staggered terms such that no Faculty Chair has an identical term as any other Faculty Chair. Each Faculty Chair must be a member of the Voting Faculty who does not serve simultaneously as a Senator; the three Faculty Chairs cannot all come from the same major unit.
 - iv. A Faculty Chair serving the first year of their term shall be referred to as the Chair-Elect of the Faculty, a Faculty Chair serving the second year of their term shall be referred to as the Chair of the Faculty, and a Faculty Chair serving the third year of their term shall be referred to as the Past Chair of the Faculty.

- v. Should a Faculty Chair position become vacant for any reason other than the unseating of a Faculty Chair, the Nominations and Elections Committee shall, within thirty working days, hold an election among the Voting Faculty to fill that position for the remainder of its term. The winning candidate in this election shall be installed in the vacant Faculty Chair position immediately upon Nominations and Elections' certification of the results of the race.

b. *Duties of Faculty Chairs.*

- i. The *Chair*, the *Chair-Elect*, and the *Past Chair of the Faculty* shall be the Chair, the Chair-Elect and the Past Chair of the Senate. Their duties shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 1. serving as the Presiding Officer at Faculty convocations and Senate meeting;
 - 2. serving as the chair of the Executive Committee;
 - 3. serving as an advocate of Faculty and liaising with the administration and other components of the University;
 - 4. serving as one of PFW's representative to the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) and as PFW's representative the University Policy Council (UPC);
 - 5. collectively coordinating the Faculty response to issues that emerge during the summer months;
 - 6. regularly meeting as a team and reporting on their activities to the Executive Committee.
- ii. The Faculty Chairs should determine among themselves, every fall and for the rest of the academic year, who serves, individually:
 - 1. as the First, Second, and Third Presiding Officer of the Senate;
 - 2. as chair of the Executive Committee (the other two will assist that chair in their work);
 - 3. as either one of PFW's representative to the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) or PFW's representative to the University Policy Council (UPC).
- iii. *Presiding Officer.* The Presiding Officer of the Faculty shall be the Presiding Officer of the Senate and shall preside at Faculty convocations and Senate meetings. While the Presiding Officer has voting rights, it is desirable, while presiding, for the Presiding Officer to exercise those rights only to break or create a tie. In the absence of the First Presiding Officer, the following shall preside in order of precedence:
 - 1. the Second Presiding Officer of the Senate;
 - 2. the Third Presiding Officer of the Senate;
 - 3. the Parliamentarian of the Senate;

4. another person chosen by the method prescribed by the rules of order adopted by the Senate.

c. *Unseating a Faculty Chair*

- i. The Senate may unseat, by a two-thirds majority of its membership voting by secret written ballot, any faculty chair whose professional conduct habitually obstructs normal parliamentary procedures or is considered in dereliction of their duty as an Officer of Senate, in which case the Senate shall have the power to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the academic year. Should any time remain in that Chair's term at the end of that academic year, the Nominations and Elections Committee shall conduct an election among the Voting Faculty during the normal election cycle, or within thirty working days if that cycle is already complete, to fill that position for the remainder of its term.

2. The **Parliamentarian of the Faculty** shall be the Parliamentarian of the Senate.

- a. The Parliamentarian shall be selected by the Executive Committee of the Senate for a one-year term beginning with the fall Senate.
- b. The Parliamentarian's duties shall include, but not be limited to:
 - i. assisting the Presiding Officer during Faculty convocations and Senate meetings by giving procedural advice;
 - ii. assisting the Senate, its bodies, and its officers; by providing timely guidance on proper parliamentary rules and procedures according to the adopted rules of order and the Bylaws, including general best parliamentary practices not found in either document.

3. The **Clerk of the Faculty** shall be the Clerk of the Senate.

- a. The Clerk shall be a non-Faculty professional selected by the Executive Committee.
- b. The Clerk's duties shall include, but not be limited to:
 - i. circulating notice of meetings and agendas;
 - ii. informing the Presiding Officer of the presence of a quorum;
 - iii. recording the attendance of Senators, guests, and visitors;
 - iv. keeping, producing, and circulating minutes of all Faculty convocations and Senate meetings;
 - v. maintaining Senate committee records and reports.

4. The **Sergeant-at-Arms of the Faculty** shall be the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate.

- a. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be appointed annually by the Executive Committee.
- b. The Sergeant-at-Arms's duties are to assist the Presiding Officer in maintaining order and to assist the Clerk in seating guests.

C. Organization

1. ***Officers.*** The Officers of the Senate shall be the Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Past Chair of the Senate, the Parliamentarian, the Clerk, and the Sergeant-at-Arms.
2. ***Meetings of the Senate***
 - a. *Regular Meetings.* The Senate shall meet to conduct its business at least once a month during the academic year.
 - b. *Special Meetings.* Upon petition by twenty percent of the Voting Faculty or forty percent of the Senate, a special meeting of the Senate shall be called within a time limit determined by the Bylaws. The Executive Committee may also call a special meeting. In either case, written notice must be given at least forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting, and only those items listed on the agenda distributed with the meeting notice may be considered.
3. ***Committees of the Senate.*** In order to exercise more effectively its rights and responsibilities, the Senate shall create appropriate committees. It may delegate specific Senate powers to these groups, but the Senate retains the right to amend any actions of its committees. The committees of the Senate shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. *Executive Committee.* The Executive Committee shall consist of the Faculty Chairs of the Senate, the Parliamentarian of the Senate as an ex officio, non-voting member; and four senators elected by the Senate. The elected members shall include no more than one from any major unit; their terms shall commence with the Fall Senate and expire with their Senate terms. The duties of the Executive Committee shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. The Committee shall, at the beginning of the academic year, establish and publicize twenty dates during that academic year to be reserved for the conduct of Senate business.
 - ii. The Committee shall formulate the agenda for each Senate meeting and shall be responsible for the circulation of the meeting agenda at least one week prior to a regular Senate meeting.
 - iii. The Committee may, with the approval of the Senate, recommend a procedure for the efficient conduct of items of business on the agenda.
 - iv. The Committee shall maintain online a list of Senate documents that are currently under deliberation in the various Senate committees, along with document status and name of committee and committee chairperson.
 - v. The Committee shall serve as a clearing house for all Faculty matters that concern policy, shall help coordinating the work of all other Senate committees, and shall liaise with the administration.

- vi. The Committee shall periodically review the committee structure of the Faculty to ensure the effectiveness of Senate and to encourage efficient Faculty participation.
- vii. The Committee shall formulate and submit for Senate approval the Bylaws of the Senate. Amendments to the Senate Constitution or Bylaws may be proposed by this Committee and must be promptly reported to the Senate if proposed by a senator, a committee, or a member of the Faculty.

IV. CONVOCATIONS

The Executive Committee shall establish and announce the agenda, time, and place of all Faculty convocations.

- A. On its own initiative, the Executive Committee may convene the Faculty in formal convocation for the conduct of business.
- B. When petitioned by at least twenty percent of the members of the Voting Faculty, the Executive Committee must convene the Faculty in formal convocation. The Clerk of the Senate shall publicize at the beginning of each semester a current list of the Voting Faculty as defined herein, and the minimum number required to convene the Faculty in such a manner.
- C. At any Faculty convocation any item may be brought up for discussion, and the Senate, the chief administrative officer of PFW, the President, and the Board of Trustees of Purdue University may be petitioned for action by the convened Voting Faculty. Only members of the Voting Faculty and the elected representative of the lecturers may vote on such petitions.
- D. Faculty convocations shall be conducted according to the rules of order adopted by the Senate.

V. ASSEMBLIES

Faculty assemblies may be called by the chief administrative officer of PFW or by the Executive Committee. No business may be conducted at an assembly.

- A. Faculty assemblies may be called and presided over by the chief administrative officer of PFW for the purpose of transmitting communications from the President and/or Board of Trustees of Purdue University, and/or the chief administrative officer.
- B. Faculty assemblies may be called by the Executive Committee and presided over by one of its members for the purpose of providing a broad and open forum for the discussion of matters that do, will, or may affect the Faculty.

VI. POWERS

- A. **Definitions.** For the purpose of this document:

- 1. **Determination** shall imply that Voting Faculty have legislative or operational authority. More specifically,

- a. “legislative authority” means that any action requires a positive vote by the Senate, and
 - b. “operational authority” means that authority is delegated to an academic unit and only the positive review by a Senate committee requires a vote by the Senate.
2. **Joint Effort** shall imply that all components of the University act in a spirit of shared responsibility while, in matters where the Faculty has primary responsibility, the administration should exercise its powers adversely only in exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons communicated to the Faculty, preferably with the opportunity for further consideration and transmittal of Faculty views.
- a. **Primary responsibility** shall reflect the fact that each component of the University has areas of primary responsibility that determine the weight, depth, and detail of its involvement in the governance of that area. Each component’s authority and voice in a particular decision shall correspond to its expertise in and responsibility for that matter. For example, the Faculty has primary responsibility for promotion and tenure, and the chief financial officer has primary responsibility for the budget.
 - b. **Shared responsibility**, the reason for joint effort, shall reflect the fact that the mission of the University can be accomplished only through mutual trust and cooperation while different components of its governance structure have different areas of primary responsibility.
3. **Consultation** shall imply a formal procedure, in a spirit of shared responsibility, for the Faculty to present its judgment before (a component of) the University reaches a decision. More specifically, **formal procedure** shall mean one of the following three options:
- a. **Representation** shall refer to a situation where members of the Faculty, chosen by a process determined by the Senate or its Executive Committee, represent the Faculty during the planning or decision-making process; this will often mean committee membership and may be considered the default option of the three.
 - b. **Written recommendation** shall refer to the situation where a Senate committee submits its recommendations in writing.
 - c. **Vote** shall refer to the situation where Senate as whole votes on a resolution.
4. **Review**. The right and power to review shall imply a formal procedure for the Faculty to present its judgment after (a component of) the University acted or made a decision to act. More specifically, **formal procedure** shall mean:
- a. **Written recommendation** shall refer to the situation where a Senate committee submits its recommendations in writing.
 - b. **Vote** shall refer to the situation where Senate as whole votes on a resolution.
5. **Shared governance**. In matters requiring determination, joint effort, or consultation as defined above, and where the Faculty has primary responsibility, neither ad hoc appointments of members of the Faculty by the administration, nor informal expression

of opinion from the Faculty or its individual members, nor committees seating one or two Faculty representatives among a majority of administrative and/or staff members satisfy the basic standards for Faculty participation in shared governance through its governing body.

B. Specific Powers. The Voting Faculty shall possess and exercise, collectively, the power and responsibility:

1. To **determine through legislative authority** of its governing body:
 - a. the academic calendar;
 - b. the policies for class scheduling;
 - c. how to respond to a request for action by a student governance body.
2. To **review and approve through operational authority** of its governing body:
 - a. the titles of the academic degrees conferred at PFW;
 - b. the general requirements for the curricula leading toward academic degrees or certificates;
 - c. the nomination of all candidates for degrees and certificates.
3. To **set policies through joint effort** concerning:
 - a. the admission and academic placement of students;
 - b. student conduct and discipline;
 - c. the administration of the library and other educational support facilities;
 - d. the conduct, welfare, privileges, tenure, appointment, retention, and promotion of the Faculty.
4. To **make formal recommendations through** established processes of **consultation**, where the governing body presents its judgment before the University reaches decisions concerning:
 - a. changes in academic organization and regulations;
 - b. the screening and selecting of academic and chief academic or administrative officers;

and, in respect to how they may affect the attainment of the educational objectives of the University,

- c. the determination and management of the budget;
 - d. the planning of physical facilities;
 - e. increases and decreases in staff.
5. To **present its views** concerning any matter pertaining to the conduct and welfare of PFW to the President and Board of Trustees of Purdue University. The Faculty may present these views through informal expression of opinion from their individual

members. However, to meet established principles of shared governance, only a formal procedure for Faculty to present its judgment in the form of a written recommendation or vote through its governing body will represent the will of the Faculty as a whole.

C. **Delegation.** Subject to the right of review by the Faculty through its governing body and the limitations that have been established to protect the interests of Purdue University, the power

1. to review and approve academic degrees,
2. to develop curriculum, instructional and examination procedures and undergraduate degree requirements, and
3. to nominate candidates for these degrees

is delegated to the college and school faculties; the power

4. to develop course content and new courses

is delegated to the academic departments.

D. Review Power

1. Review of Administrative Powers

- a. The Faculty shall express its judgment on administrative actions by presenting its findings and giving its recommendation on each case presented to it that raises an issue of academic freedom, tenure, promotion, or the nature or conditions of work.
- b. The review power shall be exercised by grievance committees elected by the Voting Faculty. Subject to the university provisions, the Senate shall establish the composition and procedures as well as the terms of office, qualification and disqualification, and replacement of the members of these bodies.
- c. Any member of the Faculty may petition these bodies for review of administrative action regarding academic freedom, tenure, promotion, or the nature or conditions of work.

2. Review of Senate Actions

- a. Senate actions shall be subject to review and check by the Voting Faculty through the following two procedures:
 - i. At any Faculty convocation past actions of its Senate may be brought to the floor for discussion. If a majority of those present and eligible to vote so direct, the Senate must reconsider its action at its next regular meeting.
 - ii. Any action taken by the Senate shall be forced back to that body for mandatory reconsideration if within two weeks after the circulation of the Senate minutes covering the action, a petition by at least twenty percent of the Voting Faculty stating the objections of the petitioners is received by the Presiding Officer of the Senate.

- b. In either of the above procedures, if the Senate reaffirms its original action, the issue must be submitted by ballot to the Voting Faculty. The ballots shall be returned and counted, and the decision announced, before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate. The decision of a simple majority in such a ballot shall be final.

VII. AMENDMENTS

A. Amendment of the Constitution shall require the following:

1. **publication** of the proposed amendment to all members of the Faculty and the Senate as part of a Senate meeting agenda under the title “Amendment(s) to the Constitution of the Senate”;
 2. **approval** of the proposed amendment **by majority vote** of the Senate;
 3. **approval** of the proposed amendment **via secret ballot** of the Voting Faculty by a two-thirds majority of those voting or by a simple majority of the Voting Faculty, whichever shall be the less.
 4. The amendment shall **become effective** as provided for in the amendment or, failing that, on the first day of the academic year following the completion of the steps above.
- B. **Scrivener's errors.** The Clerk of the Senate, after consultation with and the approval of both the Parliamentarian and the Executive Committee, may correct, provided they do not change the intended meaning, minor clerical mistakes in this document without Senate approval. If the Clerk, Parliamentarian, and Executive Committee do, they must give written notice to the Senate, detailing the changes.

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