

# FGCU Faculty Senate By-Laws Proposed Revisions

## **Current:**

### I. Mission and Vision

#### Current By-Laws:

##### ***Philosophy Statement***

*Whereas a university's foundation is its faculty, the faculty governance process and structure at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) are grounded in and dedicated to the principles, concepts, and objectives of the university mission. A system of collegial faculty self-governance is necessary to ensure that the rights of faculty are supported and that the responsibilities of faculty in fulfilling the mission of the university are met. Therefore, the Faculty Senate engages in collegial dialog with the President of the Institution, the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) and others in positions of administrative leadership. Faculty governance at FGCU fosters effective and open communication, instills academic integrity, ensures academic quality, and emphasizes the rights and shared responsibilities of constituents including students, staff, community, faculty, and administration. Fairness, mutual respect, continuous improvement, an informed faculty, and collegial decision-making are the hallmarks of the governance structure.*

##### ***Purpose***

*Faculty governance at Florida Gulf Coast University provides a structure and process for the faculty to promote a supportive and quality-oriented learning environment for students, staff, community, faculty, and administration, in furtherance of the mission and guiding principles of the university. The faculty governance structure facilitates faculty input to the complementary administrative units of the FGCU organizational structure. The Faculty Senate is an autonomous body representing the collective opinion of the faculty of the university to the administration and to the community. The faculty governance system at FGCU:*

- *defines and promotes the rights and responsibilities of faculty with respect to scholarly activity, mutual respect and tolerance, collegiality, and equity across the academic units of the institution;*
- *provides a process for recommending university policies concerning student, staff, community, faculty, campus, and administrative affairs;*
- *vigorously protects and promotes academic freedom;*
- *coordinates faculty representation on university-wide committees and task forces;*
- *creates and maintains a flexible, collegial, and integrated structure;*

- *promotes the equitable economic welfare of the faculty; and*
- *provides a process for ensuring quality in academic programs.*

*The faculty recognizes that as the University develops, the governance structure will evolve, striving for continuous improvement, to reflect and sustain a dynamic learning environment. The governance document should be reviewed annually and updated as needed.*

### Proposed changes:

#### Mission

The purpose of faculty governance at Florida Gulf Coast University is to safeguard academic quality, promote effective and open communication, insist upon academic integrity, emphasize rights and shared responsibilities of students, staff, community, faculty, and administration, and sustain a dynamic learning environment. This mission is accomplished through a system of collegial faculty self-governance ensuring that the rights of faculty are supported and faculty responsibilities in fulfilling the mission of the university are properly executed.

#### Vision

The faculty governance process at Florida Gulf Coast University is dedicated to accomplishing principles, concepts, and objectives of the University's mission and vision.

#### Guiding Principles

The Faculty Senate is an autonomous body representing the collective opinion of the FGCU faculty to the administration and community.

The faculty governance structure enhances representation for all faculty members in the governance of the University.

The Faculty Senate promotes the rights and responsibilities of faculty with respect to:

- quality teaching and learning;
- pursuing research and scholarly activity;
- providing service to our local, regional, national, and global communities; and,
- preserving and defending academic freedom.

Faculty governance requires coordinated faculty representation on university-wide committees and task forces to provide input and oversight in faculty affairs and recommendations concerning student, staff, campus, community, and administrative affairs.

The Faculty Senate engages in collegial dialog with the President of the University, the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and others in positions of administrative leadership in order to pursue and refine the mission of the University.

Collaborative and shared leadership among all university constituents is critical to creating a campus environment conducive to advancing student achievement. Fairness, mutual respect, continuous improvement, an informed faculty, and collegial decision-making are the hallmarks of the governance structure.

The faculty governance system encourages transparency and reasoned discourse. To accomplish these principles, the Faculty Senate shall authorize inquiry into and propose policy relevant to FGCU's mission, vision, and guiding principles.