

From the Faculty Bylaws of the University at Albany

Full text of the Bylaws is linked at http://www.albany.edu/senate/bylaws_charter.htm

Article I. Section 2 — Rights and Responsibilities of the Faculty

2.1 The Faculty shall be responsible for the development of the educational program of the University and for the conduct of the University's instructional, research, and service programs, subject to the provisions of the New York State Education Law and *The Policies of the Board of Trustees*.

2.2 Specification of Faculty Responsibilities:

2.2.1. The Faculty may initiate and shall disapprove or approve and recommend for implementation:

- (a) All changes in, additions to, or deletions from the Curriculum
- (b) Policies or standards regarding evaluation of students' academic work
- (c) Policies or standards regarding admission to the University and to its degree-granting or certificate programs
- (d) Policies and standards for graduation of students and awarding of academic degrees and certificates, including honorary degrees
- (e) Policies and standards for the conduct and evaluation of research and teaching
- (f) Policies and standards for appointment, promotion, and tenure (continuing appointment) of teaching faculty.

2.2.2. The Faculty shall be informed and given opportunity to discuss at the earliest possible stages in their formulation, and shall review and provide formal consultation on, prior to adoption, all proposals regarding:

- (a) Creation, renaming, major re-organization, or dissolution of academic units and programs
- (b) Goals and formal plans directing the future of the University
- (c) Policies or standards governing speech and assembly on the campuses of the University
- (d) Plans for development of new campus facilities, or major modifications or closure of existing facilities

2.2.3. The Faculty shall provide ongoing consultation on institution-wide budget or business initiatives that affect the teaching, research, or service programs of the University. Detailed annual reports shall be provided on actual budget expenditures.

2.2.4. The Faculty shall establish procedures for investigating, hearing, and reporting to appropriate persons or bodies with respect to charges or complaints:

- (a) Brought by members of the Faculty against other members of the Faculty or against administrative officers of the University, or
- (b) Brought against members of the Faculty by students or other members of the University community, or
- (c) Brought by members of the University community regarding restrictions on Freedom of Expression and Assembly, including academic freedom.

Such procedures shall be consistent with the laws of New York State and the United States, and the Policies of the Board of Trustees, the Policies of the University at Albany, and contractual arrangements in effect for the parties involved.

2.3 To discharge these responsibilities, the Faculty shall create a University Senate and shall delegate its power to that Senate, reserving to itself the powers specified in Article I, Section 5, Article IV and Article V of these *Bylaws*.

2.4 The Faculty executes its responsibilities directly, as authorized by Section 2.2.1, by formal consultation as required by Section 2.2.2, and by advising. Faculty participation in such decision-making is to be done via the appropriate governance body as defined by the Senate, or by its Executive Committee, except as provided in Article I, Section 5. These modes of participation are:

2.4.1 **Formal Consultation.** The Faculty shall engage in formal consultation with the President and the administration, as outlined and limited by the Policies of the Board of Trustees, and further characterized by the Chancellor's Statement on Governance [Faculty Handbook, Section III, p. 1]. Formal consultation is required for matters covered by Article 1, Section 2.2.2. Either the President or the Faculty shall be able to request formal consultation on other matters.

Except where precluded by contractual or other legal restrictions, minimally, formal consultation with the faculty on these proposals shall entail consultation between administration and University governance bodies. Formal consultation shall require communication, preferably in writing, specifying the area or issue for which recommendations are being solicited and accompanied by sufficient information as necessary for an informed recommendation. Formal consultation should occur as soon as issues needing resolution are identified. The faculty shall be given adequate time to respond. A written response to final Faculty recommendations shall be provided, indicating what decisions were made and the basis for such decisions; this should be particularly detailed in instances where faculty recommendations are not followed.

2.4.2 **Advice.** A group of Faculty may offer an informal expression of opinion or may review and offer recommendations on proposed policy or actions. The advice may be initiated by a governance body or requested by an administrator. The administrator shall communicate the decision and the rationale for it back to the advisory group.

2.5 Faculty Participation in Advisory Groups Outside of Governance Bodies.

Administrators may choose to advance their leadership vision for the University by constituting special committees and task forces, selecting individual faculty members because of their experience or expertise. Ideally, such advisory groups shall be constituted in consultation with the Governance Council of the University Senate and lines of communication with relevant governance bodies shall be enunciated. In any case, such groups do not represent the Faculty as a whole and advice from such groups does not replace approval by or formal consultation with the Faculty. Such groups may freely provide advice; however, for such groups to be considered part of the formal consultative process, a majority of the faculty members must either be appointed by, or their recommended appointment approved by, the Senate Governance Council, as specified in Article 2, Section 5.5, and specific faculty members must be designated to regularly report to the Senate. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate shall be consulted in the composition

of all major University level search committees and committees to select honorary degree recipients.

2.6 Consultation with Constituent Groups. All Faculty Governance bodies have a responsibility to communicate regularly with their constituency as noted in Article II, Section 1.6, and Article III, and to be responsive when a request for consultation comes from Student Groups.