

Faculty Senate Annual Report 2023-2024 Academic Year

In this past year Faculty Senate has participated in many initiatives designed to increase faculty voices in shared governance. Further, we have worked to revise our bylaws in order to more effectively govern.

Bylaws Revisions (made by the Faculty Senate By-laws ad hoc Committee)

- We revised the names and charges of the standing Faculty Senate Committees to more closely reflect their university committee counterparts.
- We clarified the roles of the officers, including more specific Presidential rights (e.g., calling meetings of the full faculty) and duties in representing the collective and individual faculty, and added a past-president position.
- We asked, and received a commitment from the Provost to increase the stipend and course releases for the President and Vice President.
- We clarified that department heads shall not serve as Senators.
- We changed the timeline for Senate elections to be in the Fall and officers in early spring in order to give department heads time to accommodate scheduling classes for in-coming Senators and the new Vice President.
- We clarified who ex officio voting and non-voting members are.
- We changed the method by which university-level policies are approved by Senate in order to facilitate policy work being done in the summer.

Senate Resolutions Passed

- Recommendation #2324-01: Recommendation Regarding Required Syllabus Statements/Policies
 - The Provost has agreed to follow these recommendations and is working to implement them by Fall 2024.
- Resolution #2324-01: Faculty Handbook and Tenure and Promotion Resolution
 - Action taken: The Provost issued a directive to deans to work with department heads and faculty to implement the recommendations outlined in this resolution. The Faculty Handbook Committee has also worked to implement the recommendations made within the handbook. However, there have been several roadblocks with implementation of this resolution. Senate leadership plans to have follow-up meetings with the Provost and deans in Fall 2024 to discuss this further.
- Resolution #2324-02: Resolution Regarding Academic Advising
 - Action taken: The Provost responded with a written response regarding how the issues raised in the resolution were being addressed, including changes being made to the process for student athlete advising and a timeline for implementation of these changes in Spring and Summer 2024. An update for Senate on this initiative's progress is scheduled for Fall 2024.

- Recommendation #2324-02: Recommendation Regarding the Tuition Assistance Program Policy Number 1:03:02
 - Action taken: Dr. Harmon acknowledged receipt of this recommendation but has not contacted Senate further to discuss possible revisions to this policy. Senate leadership will reach back out to Dr. Harmon in July.

University Policies Reviewed/Approved

- IV.06.03.01 - University Driving and Vehicle Use Policy (Senate approved; UEC approved)
- I.02.3- Relocation Policy (Senate reviewed; no final vote called in UEC)
- I:02:02:01 - Recruitment and Selection (Senate reviewed; no final vote called in UEC)
- I:02:24 - Employee Mandatory Self Reporting of Criminal Offenses (Senate approved; UEC approved)
- I:01:01 - Establishing and Maintaining University Policy and Procedure (Senate approved; UEC approved)
- I:05:04 - Code of Conduct and Ethics (Senate approved; UEC approved)
- IV.03.01 - Purchasing Guidelines and Procedures (Senate approved; UEC approved)
- I.07.04 - Solicitation Policy (Senate approved; UEC Approved)

Shared Governance Initiatives

- The Faculty Senate recommended and populated a Faculty Handbook Committee whose charge is to update the JSU Faculty Handbook by Fall 2024.
- The Faculty Handbook Committee has revised the shared governance structure at JSU to involve Faculty Senate, Department Head Council, and Deans Council in approval of academic policies and catalog revisions.
- The Faculty Senate President, in consultation with the Elections Committee, will have a more clearly defined role in recommending faculty to university committees going forward.
- Faculty Senate worked with the Provost to developed a Faculty Survey to provide feedback to the Provost regarding major faculty issues.
- Faculty Senate worked with the Academic Calendar Committee to create 7 years of academic calendars, which were approved by the President's Cabinet and implemented.
- A Faculty Salary Committee was created by the Provost. They created a proposal and held the first university-wide faculty meeting to discuss the proposal. They then have recommended the proposal to the President and Provost and asked that the committee be made permanent.
- The Provost has added the Faculty Senate President to Extended Deans Council.
- The Faculty Senate President and Vice President now hold bi-weekly meetings with the Provost and monthly meetings with the JSU President and Provost.
- The Faculty Senate President was asked to participate in the College Check-ins at the end of spring semester.

Senate Representation on University Committees

- From Summer 2023 to Spring 2024, Faculty Senate President Overton served as the Faculty Senate representative on the Budget Committee, Faculty/Staff Convocation Committee, Welcome Back Committee, University Commencement Committee, Joint Council, the President's Cabinet, and at the Board of Trustees meetings.
- From Summer 2023 to Spring 2024, Vice President H. Dempsey served as the Faculty Senate representative to the Faculty Handbook Committee, Jax MIX General Education Committee, Faculty Salary Committee, Deans Council, SACSCOC Reaffirmation team, and the Faculty Contract Improvement Workgroup.
- In Summer 2024, Faculty Senate President H. Dempsey served as the Faculty Senate representative on the Budget Committee, Faculty Handbook Committee, Faculty/Staff Convocation Committee, SB-129 Task Force, University Commencement Committee, Student Success Summit Planning Committee, Faculty Salary Committee, Deans Council, Joint Council, the Faculty Contract Improvement Workgroup, New Faculty Orientation Committee, President's Cabinet, and at the Board of Trustees meetings.
- In Summer 2024, Vice President D. Dempsey served as the Faculty Senate representative to the International Student Concerns Task Force, Faculty Mentoring Committee, and the Welcome Back and SACSCOC Celebration Committee.

Goals for 2024-2025

- To remove and restructure the Faculty Honors Committee in order to have more continuity in membership. Further, this committee will be asked to develop rubrics for assessing faculty awards/grants and update the respective websites to reflect changes in criteria/evaluation.
- Finish the Faculty Handbook Revision and have it approved by Faculty Senate.
- Implement Senate Leadership Training and New Senator Orientation.
- Finish analyzing the Faculty Survey results and present them to the Provost in July.
- Recommend the restructuring of University Committees and Academic Affairs Committees to have a larger faculty presence on committees.

Faculty Senate Updates Provided to the Board of Trustees in July 2024

Faculty Senate President H. Dempsey and Vice President D. Dempsey traveled to France on the Southerners and International House reunion trip to represent Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate provided feedback on, and ultimately approved, five university policies for the Policies and Procedures Manual since April.

Faculty Advocacy Committee members (standing Senate committee), the Senate President, Senate Vice President, Provost Shelton, Dean Newton, and several others participated in a 2-day Faculty Handbook retreat in May. We have continued to work this summer on Faculty Handbook revisions and currently have drafts of 7 of 10 chapters. Several proposed changes to the handbook have been discussed by the full Senate this summer.

The Faculty Senate President and Vice President attended the GO! Orientation Preview as representatives of Faculty Senate.

The Faculty Senate President and Vice President are working with the Provost to develop and implement Faculty Leadership Training for Executive Committee members and New Senator Orientation for new senators.

The Faculty Senate President has worked with Faculty Commons and the Vice Provost on adjunct faculty orientation in July and new faculty orientation in August.

The Faculty Senate President worked with the President and Provost to develop and collect data on a Faculty Survey to get feedback about faculty concerns.

The Faculty Senate President and Vice President have met regularly with the President and Provost, in addition to the President attending Cabinet and Deans Council meetings.

Since April, the Faculty Senate President has served as the Faculty Senate representative on the Budget Committee, Faculty Handbook Committee, Faculty/Staff Convocation Committee, SB-129 Task Force, University Commencement Committee, Student Success Summit Planning Committee, Faculty Salary Committee, Deans Council, Joint Council, and the Faculty Contract Improvement Workgroup. Since April, the Vice President has served as a representative to the International Student Concerns Task Force, Faculty Mentoring Committee, Faculty Handbook Committee, and the Welcome Back and SACSCOC Celebration Committee.