

**University of South Alabama  
Faculty Senate Constitution  
Approved by USA Board of Trustees – March 11, 2011**

**PREAMBLE**

The Faculty of the University of South Alabama, being essential to the general welfare and success of the institution as a whole, in full acknowledgment of the governing authority of the Board of Trustees and the executive responsibilities of the University Administration, do establish this Constitution to supercede all other previously promulgated and approved Faculty Senate Constitutions, and to explicate the powers and functions of the University of South Alabama Faculty Senate.

**ARTICLE I. PURPOSE AND POWERS**

The University of South Alabama Faculty Senate is authorized by the Board of Trustees as the primary representative body of the Faculty. In that it gives representatives of the Faculty Senate a voice in the oversight of all academic programs of the University, shared governance is a mutual goal of the University Administration and Faculty. Composed of duly elected representatives of the Faculty, the Faculty Senate also will be the primary vehicle for eliciting and expressing the opinions, suggestions, and recommendations of the Faculty on all issues and concerns of the Faculty as a whole. These issues and concerns may include, but are not limited to:

- formulation of the University's educational standards and degree requirements, including approval or removal of academic programs and their curricula;
- criteria for faculty appointment, dismissal, evaluation, promotion, tenure, and retirement;
- criteria for the selection of the president or vice presidents, and selected other academic administrative officers;
- priorities for the University development plan;
- changes in physical facilities that have a direct effect on academic programs;
- policies regarding student life, rights, and responsibilities;
- policies relating to the Faculty grievance process;
- formulation of the policies and procedure put forth by the Faculty Handbook.

To that end, a faculty representative designated by the Faculty Senate President shall be a voting member of all major academic councils and committees, and *ad hoc* search or screening committees appointed to assist the University President and other officers or administrators of the University in the selection of administrators whose authority and responsibility have an impact on academic programs university-wide. In addition, the Faculty Senate President, Vice-

President, Secretary, and immediate Past-President shall attend meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Any resolution passed by the Faculty Senate shall be communicated in writing directly to the University President within 14 days. Any decision by the University President to reject a Faculty Senate resolution, or failure to respond within 30 days to a resolution made by the Faculty Senate, may be appealed to the Board of Trustees upon request by ballot of a minimum of 51% of the total membership of the Faculty Senate.

## **ARTICLE II. REPRESENTATION AND STRUCTURE**

2.1 Whereas the Faculty Senate represents the University Faculty at large, Faculty members in each of the free-standing departments, colleges, schools and libraries (i.e., academic units) of the University shall be eligible for election to the Faculty Senate. Full-time faculty members eligible for election to the Faculty Senate are those below the rank of Assistant/Associate Dean or Director including those of the rank of Instructor, Senior Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Full Professor, or equivalent.

2.2 Faculty Senators will be elected to three-year terms by each of the academic units of the University. Faculty Senators holding joint appointments in more than one academic unit must choose which academic unit they will be representing on the Senate. A Faculty Senator, if elected, may serve a second consecutive three-year term. An elected member completing a term of not more than one year for an absent Faculty Senator shall be eligible to serve two consecutive three-year terms if elected. Rules governing proportional representation of academic units and specific procedures for conducting secret ballot elections are specified in Faculty Senate Bylaws.

2.3 The officers of the Faculty Senate shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and immediate Past-President. Officers will be elected for one-year terms according to procedures outlined in Faculty Senate Bylaws. The President may serve a maximum of two consecutive one-year terms. The incumbent President must be elected through the Senate's normal election process to serve the second one-year term.

2.4 The duties of the Faculty Senate President and other officers are specified in the Faculty Senate Bylaws. All rulings or actions of the Faculty Senate President are subject to approval of the Faculty Senate. Each year, the Faculty Senate President working with the Executive Committee shall prepare a statement reviewing the state of the University. This statement shall be presented to the Administration and Faculty, after discussion and adoption by the Faculty Senate. 3

- 2.5 The Faculty Senate President and Secretary will receive one course reassigned time per semester. The Vice-President will receive one course reassigned time per year.
- 2.6 The Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, immediate Past-President, and the Chair of each Standing Senate Committee put forth in the Bylaws.
- 2.7 The body of elected Senators from each academic unit shall constitute the respective Caucus for that academic unit. Caucus Leaders for each academic unit shall be elected according to procedures specified in the Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE III. AMENDMENTS**

- 3.1 Amendments to this Constitution shall originate within the Faculty Senate. Each amendment shall be proposed and debated during a meeting of the Faculty Senate, and following further debate, as appropriate, shall be voted on at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.
- 3.2 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by three-fifths vote of the Senate. The faculty shall be notified of proposed amendments by both print and electronic means at least thirty (30) days prior to voting, and an open forum to discuss will be offered two weeks before the vote if requested. Voting must be completed within a specific interval of time, not to exceed 120 days, agreed upon by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee before the University-wide referendum is initiated. The amendment does not become official until a majority of the faculty has voted on the proposed amendment and a majority of those voting approve the proposed change. After approval by the faculty the proposed amendment must then be submitted to the President of the University for review. The President has thirty (30) business days to review the proposed amendment. After review by the President, the proposed amendment must then be submitted to and approved by the Board of Trustees of the University of South Alabama.

### **ARTICLE IV. BYLAWS**

- 4.1 The Faculty Senate shall adopt Bylaws that constitute the rules and regulations governing the conduct and procedures necessary for the performance of its functions.
- 4.2 Bylaws will be available in both electronic and hardcopy formats