

Constituency Report for June Board of Visitors Meeting Faculty Senate

1. Summary of past Academic Year

- Faculty Senate meetings:
 - Full Senate meetings (every other week): 16 (including two closed sessions)
 - Cabinet meetings (every other week, alternating with Full Senate Meetings): 14
- Processed resolutions:
 - Commission on Faculty Affairs: 5
 - Commission on Student Affairs: 5
 - Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policy: 15
 - Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policy: 7
 - Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs: 7
 - University Council: 2
 - **Total: 41**
- Presentations:
 - Student Village Master Plan (Nov. 12th, 2021)
 - Climate Action Commitment (April 8th, 2022)
 - Standardized Test-Optional Policy and Report (March 25th, 2022)
- Statements:
 - Academic Freedom (Fall 2021, [link](#))
 - Against Targeted Harassment (Spring 2022, [link](#))
- Major Accomplishments:
 - Finalizing and approval of the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws
 - Discussion and Faculty Senate Approval of the New Shared Governance Model including the Constitution and Bylaws of the University Council
 - Development and codifying of resolution commenting process
 - Streamlining Faculty Senate related processes: communication strategies, record-keeping, hybrid mode, closed session

2. Faculty Senate Theme for Next Year

The separation of faculty into disciplines, and of the university into colleges, colleges into departments, and departments into programs, creates intellectual and administrative barriers to developing a faculty consensus on issues that need to be resolved through university-level governance.

In the next few years, the Faculty Senate will need to develop methods for ascertaining and shaping an overall faculty view on issues that come before it. To do so will require consistent and timely engagement between senators and their departments, between departments and college faculty associations, and between faculty associations and the Faculty Senate.

Many of the structural and procedural changes required to facilitate this level of engagement will be completed at the start of the 2022-2023 academic year. We need to focus now on changing the governance culture, on demonstrating to faculty and administrators that working with the Faculty Senate leads to tangible results, and on asking for greater faculty engagement, particularly from senators. Structures and processes are important but useless if we lack the commitment to apply them for their intended purposes. As Faculty Senate leadership, we consider helping bring life to this new system of governance our most important responsibility in the coming year.