

Faculty Governance has a **new** web site: <http://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/faculty-senate> !!

On this site, you will find meeting agendas and related information plus written reports from the President, the Provost, the Chair of the Faculty, Undergraduate and Graduate Student Association presidents, and the Appointed Professionals Advisory Council (APAC) representative. These reports are posted online prior to the meetings so that Senators can ask questions and engage in discussion during the Senate meetings. Membership and meetings dates for the various Shared Governance committees are also posted. We will continue to update and add more features throughout the year.

At the two meetings, the President, Provost and Chair of the Faculty discussed plans for the ABOR meetings (held on the UA campus February 4 and 5). Also discussed was the progress of RCM with implementation set to begin for FY2016; Provost and faculty reviews of proposals for the cluster hires; the search for a new Dean for Eller College; the merger with Banner Health; the Faculty Forums on Academic Freedom; and the Governor's budget proposal concerning cuts to state Universities. At the center of all reports and discussion is the core academic mission of the University. The role of Faculty Senate is to ensure that 1) faculty has the opportunity to participate in all discussions and 2) decisions and deliberations are transparent and open.

Student representatives expressed concerns around student fees and the need for transparency as to how those monies are allocated and spent at the UA. They also were concerned about the impact of the impending budget cuts. The APAC representative discussed the need for more professional development resources for appointed academic personnel.

The Senate approved two items forwarded from Undergraduate Council. One is a proposal to amend the Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drop Policy to include fully online courses and to include class participation as an expectation in addition to regular attendance and punctuality. Second was a proposal to accept Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) as a Credit-by-Exam Option (in addition to International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement exam scores) as a basis for awarding credit toward a degree.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee presented several changes to both the Constitution and Bylaws. These are available for review on the web site under the February meeting agenda. Faculty Senate will vote on these proposed changes at the March meeting. If approved, General Faculty will vote on the proposed changes in the General election.

This year, a significant part of each Faculty Senate meeting is devoted to a particular topic related to the academic health of our institution.

- At the January meeting, the discussion focused on the situation of academic freedom both locally and nationally. The Academic Freedom Working Group created a faculty survey that was distributed widely across campus. Two faculty forums were held on campus and were streamed live. Approximately one hundred people participated overall. The UA's written academic freedom policy is a good one in the national context, but retribution remains a fear among a substantial portion of the faculty. Conveying confidence about protections that are in place at the UA is a priority, as it may improve the mindset of faculty at the UA. Protecting vulnerable populations such as NTT faculty and graduate students is also a major concern.
- At the February meeting, members heard a presentation on Intercollegiate Athletics Faculty by Athletic Director Greg Byrne. Also present at the meeting were Athletic Representative, Jory Hancock, Senior Associate Athletic Director, Erika Barnes, and COIA Representative, George Gehrels.

Coming up in March is a vote on the proposal for the iSchool, a vote on proposed changes to Constitution and Bylaws, and a structured discussion with the Strategic Budget and Planning Advisory Committee members on their shared governance efforts working with administration and others.

From your Faculty Officers:

OF GREAT CONCERN is the lack of participation of the general faculty in Faculty Senate and shared governance. Approximately 1/3 of all Senators are not attending regular meetings. Petitions for Senator-at-Large positions filled only half of the need for the primary election. MORE faculty are needed to run for seats in the General Election. **Without strong participation and input ----- shared governance becomes "shared" only by a few.**