

Policy Committee Recommendations on Reinvigorating Shared Governance

- The Policy Committee encourages faculty to become more proactive in ensuring robust faculty participation in university shared governance. Faculty Senate bylaws establish the Senate as the principal authority and the originator of academic and administrative policy. Collectively and individually, however, faculty too often wait for fully formed policies to be presented as a *fait accompli* to the Senate. Instead, faculty should be leading any and all efforts that impact instructional and curricular matters. The Senate bylaws outline the scope of faculty governance as follows:

The UFS is the governance body concerned with matters of general university educational and administrative policy at Florida Atlantic University. The UFS, as elected representatives of the faculty, has authority over curriculum, admissions standards and degree programs, subject to the veto power of the President of the University. Actions of the UFS regarding academic policy are sent to the President of the University for approval. (A courtesy copy is also sent to the responsible Vice President or Division head.) Such actions become University policy within one month of formal notification by the UFS to the President of the University unless vetoed.

The Committee believes that robust faculty governance efforts are always in the best interests of the University and its students. It is our further belief that even if the President of the University vetoes Senate actions or policies it is advantageous for the Senate action to have occurred (and for the President to explain her/his rationale for a veto) than to have been inactive as faculty body.

- The Policy Committee recommends that Faculty Senate seek an observer seat at standing and ad hoc committees that impact faculty but that do not have faculty representation (the President's Executive Leadership Team meetings, Academic Affairs planning meetings, e.g.). We recommend that individuals fulfilling this role not currently be serving in Chair/Director capacities in their home unit, but are "standard" faculty.
- The Policy Committee recommends Senate participation in the development of Academic Affairs or memoranda and policies including those authored in response to "emergency" matters. We recommend policies in development be presented to a committee of the Senate for review and comment no less than TWO (or THREE) weeks prior to enactment. Ideally the Senate president would help establish the most appropriate committee for review and establish a calendar which would allow for a full Senate open forum if need be.
- The Policy Committee recommends establishing an annual "Faculty Governance Assessment" report/scorecard. Drawing on data from the annual faculty union survey a short annual report/scorecard should be developed that focuses on shared governance issues. The report should include faculty perceptions of the relationship with President and Provost with regard to governance matters.
- The Policy Committee encourages College Faculty Assemblies to become more proactive in governance matters and submitting concerns, topics for discussions or policy

recommendations to Senate. The Policy Committee shall establish a schedule where assembly chairs are invited to policy committee meetings annually to discuss governance/policy matters.