

Draft Faculty Senate Bylaws
May 14, 2026 Faculty Senate Meeting

Note: These draft bylaws were developed by the Faculty Senate Bylaws Workgroup and are being shared with faculty senators for discussion and feedback. This draft represents revisions of the [current bylaws](#), Articles I through VIII.

During the May 14 Faculty Senate meeting, workgroup members will present an overview of the revisions, including key changes, areas of focus, and the overall approach taken in this phase of the work.

Future rounds of revisions will address Articles IX–XVII, including Committees and Councils, Meetings, Motions and Voting, and related governance processes. No vote is requested at this stage.

Bylaws of the Oregon State University Faculty Senate

Article I: Foundational Provisions

1. Name

The name of this organization is the Oregon State University Faculty Senate (“Faculty Senate”).

2. Purpose

The Faculty Senate serves as the representative body for the university’s academic and professional faculty. The Faculty Senate has authority over curricula, admissions standards, degree requirements, academic regulations and policies, and related matters. The Faculty Senate is also a shared governance partner with the administration, providing consultation and input into all matters of concern to the faculty.

Article II: Members

The Faculty Senate consists of elected members and ex-officio members. Members of the Faculty Senate may serve in only one voting role at a time.

1. Elected Members

There are 132 elected members as apportioned according to Section 8 of this Article.

2. Ex-Officio Members

The following are Ex-Officio members:

- i. President of the University (non-voting)

- ii. Provost and Executive Vice President (non-voting)
- iii. Board of Trustees Faculty Member (non-voting)
- iv. Faculty Senate Parliamentarian (non-voting)
- v. Faculty Senate President
- vi. Faculty Senate President-Elect
- vii. Faculty Senate Immediate Past President
- viii. Members of the Executive Committee (EC)
- ix. Interinstitutional Faculty Senators

3. Duties

Senators are expected to review agendas and relevant materials ahead of Faculty Senate meetings; attend Faculty Senate meetings and participate in the deliberations; inform their constituents of the activities of the Faculty Senate; and solicit input from constituents on matters of concern to them and matters pending before the Faculty Senate.

4. Eligibility

All faculty members, as defined in *insert name of external document with table of ranks*, are eligible to serve in the Faculty Senate, with the exception of those who hold an Executive 1, 2, or 3 position as classified by University Human Resources.

After serving two full consecutive terms, a faculty member is ineligible for election for one year.

5. Nominations and Elections

Nominations and elections are conducted annually in a manner designated by the EC.

All faculty members, as defined in *external document with table of ranks*, are eligible to vote in Faculty Senate elections, with the exception of those who hold an Executive 1, 2, or 3 position. Faculty members with split appointments vote with their home organization on record with University Human Resources.

6. Terms

Senators serve terms of three calendar years. Approximately one-third of the Senate seats shall be elected each year. The EC may prescribe different term lengths in order to maintain the appropriate staggering of terms.

7. Vacancies

A Senator's seat becomes vacant under any of the following conditions:

- a. Resignation: As of the effective date in the Senator's written resignation notice.
- b. Leave: When a Senator takes leave from the university lasting longer than one academic term, excluding protected leaves.

- c. Termination: As of effective date of the Senator's voluntary or involuntary termination of employment.
- d. Recall: Upon submission of a valid recall petition. A valid recall petition contains signatures from the eligible voters in the apportionment unit exceeding one-half of the total number of ballots cast in that apportionment unit in the most recent Faculty Senate election.
- e. Excessive Absences: When a Senator is absent for four meetings during the academic year without designating a proxy.
- f. Election: When a Senator is elected as President-Elect, to the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate, or to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
- g. Departure from Apportionment Unit: When a Senator is no longer employed within the apportionment unit from which they were elected.
- h. Ineligibility: When a Senator becomes ineligible to serve, based on the eligibility criteria in Section 4 of this Article.

When a seat becomes vacant, it shall be filled by the unelected candidate from the apportionment unit in which the vacancy occurs who received the highest number of votes in the most recent election. If an apportionment unit has no candidates available to fill the vacancy, the Executive Committee shall identify and appoint a replacement Senator who will serve the remaining portion of the original term.

8. Apportionment

For the purposes of electing Senators, the faculty is divided into the following groups, referred to as apportionment units:

- Associated Faculty
- College of Agricultural Sciences
- College of Business
- College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Forestry
- College of Health
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Pharmacy
- College of Science
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- Extension and Engagement
- Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Library
- OSU-Cascades
- Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)
- Student Affairs

The Associated Faculty apportionment unit includes all professional faculty members not represented in another apportionment unit.

Elected seats are apportioned among units based on faculty full-time equivalent (FTE) in the unit and the number of student credit hours (SCH) delivered by each unit, and these are weighted as:

- 75% by faculty FTE, and
- 25% by SCH

Prior to annual elections, the Executive Committee shall calculate the number of seats that will be allocated to each apportionment unit. Each apportionment unit receives at least one seat. The apportionment table is approved by the Faculty Senate prior to elections. The EC may request the Faculty Senate's approval to use the prior year's apportionment table. This requires a two-thirds vote of Senators. If an apportionment unit's new apportionment is less than the number of its Senators whose terms continue into the next year, the EC shall determine the transition plan for the impacted apportionment unit.

Creation of additional apportionment units or removal of an existing apportionment unit requires a two-thirds vote of the Faculty Senate. In situations where apportionment units are created or removed, the EC shall determine a transition plan.

Article III: Officers

1. Officers

The officers of the Faculty Senate are:

- a. President-Elect
- b. President
- c. Immediate Past President

2. Duties

Duties of the President-Elect include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Represent the Faculty Senate in the absence of, or by request of, the President
- b. Preside at meetings of the Faculty Senate or EC in the absence of, or by request of the President
- c. Serve as Chair of the Faculty Forum

Duties of the President include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Serve as the elected representative of the university faculty in matters pertaining to the faculty or the Faculty Senate
- b. Preside at meetings of the Faculty Senate and EC
- c. Represent the Faculty Senate in official capacities

- d. Represent the Faculty Senate on various university-level committees
- e. Set agendas for meetings of the EC
- f. Propose Faculty Senate meeting agendas to the EC
- g. Supervise the Faculty Senate Office

Duties of the Immediate Past President include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Preside over the Past President's Council
- b. Represent the Faculty Senate at the request of the President

3. Eligibility

Nominees for officers must be a Senator or have previously served as a Senator and must meet the same eligibility requirements for serving as a Senator. Any individual who has served as Faculty Senate President for eight months or more may not serve as Faculty Senate President-Elect until two years have elapsed after the end of their term as President.

4. Terms

Officers serve one-year terms based on the calendar year. Officers progress sequentially from President-Elect to President to Immediate Past President.

5. Nominations and Election of the President-Elect

The EC shall nominate at least one candidate for the office of President-Elect. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Faculty Senate meeting in which the EC's nominees are presented.

Election occurs in a manner designated by the EC. All faculty members eligible to vote in Faculty Senate elections may vote in the election for President-Elect.

6. Vacancies

An officer's seat becomes vacant under any of the following conditions:

- a. Resignation: As of the effective date stated in the officer's written resignation notice.
- b. Leave: When the officer takes a leave from the university lasting longer than 30 days, excluding protected leaves.
- c. Termination: As of the effective date of the officer's voluntary or involuntary termination of employment.
- d. Recall: When the Faculty Senate recalls the officer's election by a two-thirds vote.
- e. Election: When an officer is elected to the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate.
- f. Ineligibility: When an officer becomes ineligible to serve, based on the eligibility criteria in Section 3 of this Article.

If the Presidency becomes vacant, the President-Elect shall become President for the rest of the term. If eight months or more remain in the President's term at the time the vacancy occurs,

the President-Elect will serve the remainder of the term and then become Immediate Past President. If less than eight months remain, the President-Elect serves as President for the remainder of the term as well as for the following year.

If the President-Elect role becomes vacant, a special election is held to fill the role for the remainder of the term. Until a new President-Elect is elected, the Immediate Past President takes on the President-Elect's duties.

If both the President-Elect and President roles become vacant, the Immediate Past President shall take on their duties until an election is held. In this case, the EC shall propose candidates for election to both vacant roles. Election occurs in a manner designated by the EC.

In the event that all three officer roles become vacant simultaneously, the EC shall appoint a President from among its current members to perform the duties of President until the vacancies of President-Elect and President are filled.

Article IV: Executive Committee

1. Membership

The EC consists of 11 voting members:

- a. President-Elect
- b. President
- c. Immediate Past-President
- d. Senior Interinstitutional Faculty Senator
- e. One member elected by the faculty of OSU-Cascades
- f. Six members elected by the Faculty Senate

The Provost or their designee serves as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

2. Duties

The EC:

- Provides general supervision of the affairs of the Faculty Senate.
- Sets the time and location of Faculty Senate meetings.
- Approves the agendas for Faculty Senate meetings.
- Appoints all members of Faculty Senate committees and councils, determines their terms, and designates the Chair for each committee and council.
- Approves proposals for consideration by the Faculty Senate.
- Serves as a consultative body to the administration.

During summer term, the EC has authority to act for the Faculty Senate in matters of urgent necessity, as determined by the EC.

3. Eligibility

The elected members of the EC must be current or former members of the Faculty Senate and must meet the same eligibility requirements for serving as a Senator. Any individual who has served as a member of the EC for more than eighteen months is not eligible to serve on the EC again until two years have elapsed after the completion of their term.

4. Terms

Executive Committee members serve terms based on the calendar year. The President-Elect, President, Immediate Past-President, and Senior Interinstitutional Faculty Senator each serve one-year terms. All other members of the Executive Committee serve two-year terms. The EC members elected by the Senate serve staggered terms, with three new members elected each year.

5. Nominations and Elections

The EC shall nominate at least one candidate for each open position on the EC. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Faculty Senate meeting in which the EC's nominees are presented. Election occurs in a manner designated by the EC. Only OSU-Cascades faculty members vote in the election of the OSU-Cascades member of the EC. All Senators, including Senators from OSU-Cascades, vote in the election for the other EC members.

6. Vacancies

The position of an EC member becomes vacant under any of the following conditions:

- a. Resignation: As of the effective date stated in the member's written resignation notice.
- b. Leave: When a member takes leave from the university lasting longer than one academic term, excluding protected leaves.
- c. Termination: As of the effective date of the member's voluntary or involuntary termination of employment.
- d. Recall: The Faculty Senate recalls the member's election by a two-thirds vote.
- e. Excessive Absences: When a member is absent for three EC meetings during a term, unless the absence is deemed excused by the EC.
- f. Election: When an EC member is elected as President-Elect or to the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate.
- g. Ineligibility: When a member becomes ineligible to serve, based on the eligibility criteria in Section 3 of this Article.

Vacancies are filled for the remainder of the term by the unelected candidate for the EC who received the highest number of votes in the most recent election.

Article V: Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS)

1. Membership

Per the Constitution of the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate of Oregon Public Universities, there are three Oregon State University IFS Senators.

2. Duties

OSU IFS Senators represent the OSU Faculty Senate on the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate. OSU's Interinstitutional Faculty Senators are voting members of the OSU Faculty Senate. The Senior IFS Senator serves on the EC.

3. Eligibility

All faculty members, as defined in *external document with table of ranks*, are eligible to serve in the IFS, with the exception of those who hold an Executive 1, 2, or 3 position.

4. Terms

The three IFS Senators serve staggered three-year terms based on the calendar year. They are designated as Junior, Intermediate, and Senior IFS Senator based on length of service in their current term.

5. Election

The EC shall nominate at least one candidate for IFS Senator. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Faculty Senate meeting in which the EC's nominees are presented. Election occurs in a manner designated by the EC. All faculty members, as defined in (external document with table of ranks), are eligible to vote in IFS elections, with the exception of those who hold an Executive 1, 2, or 3 position.

6. Vacancies

An IFS Senator's seat becomes vacant under any of the following conditions:

- a. Resignation: As of the effective date in the IFS Senator's written resignation notice.
- b. Leave: When an IFS Senator takes leave from the university lasting longer than one academic term, excluding protected leaves.
- c. Termination: As of effective date of the IFS Senator's voluntary or involuntary termination of employment.
- d. Recall: The Faculty Senate recalls the IFS Senator's election by a two-thirds vote.
- e. Excessive Absences: When an IFS Senator is absent for four OSU Faculty Senate meetings during the academic year.

- f. Election: When an IFS Senator is elected as President-Elect or to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
- g. Ineligibility: Ineligibility: When a Senator becomes ineligible to serve, based on the eligibility criteria in Section 3 of this Article.

If the Senior IFS Senator role becomes vacant, the Intermediate IFS Senator shall advance to become the Senior IFS Senator, and the Junior IFS Senator shall advance to become the Intermediate IFS Senator. If the Intermediate IFS Senator role becomes vacant, the Junior IFS Senator shall advance to the Intermediate IFS Senator role. If the Junior Representative role becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by the unelected candidate who received the highest number of votes in the most recent election.

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