

Faculty Senate

[Faculty Senate](#) » [Committees/Councils](#) » [Faculty Status Committee](#) » [Annual Reports](#) » Annual Report 2006-2007

Faculty Status Committee

Annual Report 2006-2007

Membership

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Tom Adams (07), Chair | Forest Science |
| Badege Bishaw (07) | Forest Science |
| Sandy Brooke (08) | OSU-Cascades/Art |
| Oscar Riera-Lizarazu (08) | Crop and Soil Science Extension and Experiment Station |
| Ariel Ginsburg (09) | Communications |
| Carol Mallory-Smith (09) | Crop and Soil Science |
| Sheila Roberts (09) | Educational Opportunities Program |

Recommendations from annual report in previous year

No annual report was filed for 2005-06, but previously it had been suggested that this committee consider merging with the Faculty Economic Welfare and Retirement Committee (FEWRC). The FSC considered this possibility in 2006-07, but concluded that the standing rules of the two committees are distinct and decided against a merger. The FEWRC came to this same conclusion independently.

Activities in 2006-07

Following the recommendation of Senate President, Mike Quinn, the committee chose to pursue the following topic this year: To evaluate the status of faculty on OSU branch campuses, with regards to equity in Promotion and Tenure considerations and shared governance in the University. It was decided to use a simple questionnaire ([Attachment A](#)) to get an initial read on the degree of concern over these issues and to sample faculty not only on the Bend Campus, but also at EOU, OHSU, County Extension Offices, and at research facilities (e.g. Agricultural Experiment Stations, Hatfield Marine Science Center) located outside of Corvallis.

Vickie Nunnemaker provided a list of approximately 450 faculty (Professorial, Instructors, Research Assistants, Professional, no rank) located off the Corvallis Campus. This list was divided into four groupings for the purpose of conducting this initial survey:

1. Professorial faculty located at the Bend OSU Campus, EOU and OHSU (29 surveyed).
2. Off-Corvallis Campus Professorial faculty (located elsewhere than Group 1) (mostly Extension and AES) (40 surveyed).
3. Non-professorial faculty at Bend OSU Campus, EOU and OHSU (25 surveyed).
4. Non-professorial faculty located elsewhere (40 surveyed).

In the case of groupings 1) and 3), all individuals in the group were sent questionnaires. In the remaining two groupings, 40 randomly-selected individuals were sampled.

Summary of Survey Results

1. Questionnaires have been returned for all four of the groups ([Attachment B](#)).
2. Even after repeated requests, the return rate on questionnaires was only poor to modest (16% - 58%).
3. Group 1: *Professorial faculty located on campuses outside of Corvallis*
Of the 9 respondents, it looks like 3 may have been Professional Faculty. This group was largely displeased with their representation (or ability to participate) in governance, citing distance to Corvallis as a barrier, and lack of Senate representation other than through colleagues located in Corvallis. Should faculty on campuses outside Corvallis have special representation in Faculty Senate like County Extension faculty? Most individuals sampled in this group (5) felt they were at a disadvantage with

regards to achieving promotion and tenure, citing heavy loads of advising, teaching, and local governance as deterrents to meeting scholarship expectations. They also suggested that isolation from Corvallis colleagues puts them at a disadvantage.

4. Group 2: *Professorial faculty located at Experiment Stations and County Extension Offices.*
Of the 23 responses, 18 were satisfied (at least not dissatisfied) with their representation in University Governance. Distance, lack of funding for travel, and time, were indicated as the primary barriers to participation. A large majority of this group (15) felt that promotion and tenure is more difficult to achieve when located off the Corvallis campus. Among issues cited were the long-term nature of applied research and that Extension scholarship is not understood by campus faculty.
5. Group 3: *Non-professorial faculty located on campus outside of Corvallis.*
Only four responded, but questionnaires for this group were distributed later than for the others (at the end of Spring Term). Responses from these individuals were generally consistent with those expressed in Group 1.
6. Group 4: *Non-professorial faculty located at Experiment Stations and County Extension Offices.*
Responses were received by 14 individuals, most of whom were either ambivalent about their role in governance or did not feel they were well represented. Again, distance and lack of representation other than through their college affiliation seemed to be issues. This faculty was split in their opinions about promotion, although half felt that promotion was more difficult to achieve than for colleagues located in Corvallis.
7. Results from the survey suggest that representation in governance and equity in promotion and tenure are significant issues for faculty located off the Corvallis campus. These concerns should be further investigated in 2007-08, with the goal of providing recommendations for improvement.

| [Home](#) | [Agendas](#) | [Bylaws](#) | [Committees](#) | [Elections](#) | [Faculty Forum Papers](#) | [Handbook](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Membership/Attendance](#) | [Minutes](#) |

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