

## The University Faculty

According to the bylaws of the university, the “...functions of the University Faculty shall be to consider questions of educational policy which concern more than one college, school or separate academic unit, or are general in nature; and to recommend to the Board of Trustees, with the approval of the appropriate college or school faculty, the establishment, modification, or discontinuance of degrees.” In addition to the functions of the University Faculty described earlier in the paragraph, the bylaws specify the voting and nonvoting members of the University Faculty; the University Faculty, however, may grant to any group of nonvoting members the right to vote on any question deemed by the faculty to be of interest to that group.

For more than a century, the University Faculty conducted its business by meeting periodically as a legislative body. These meetings of the whole were attended by a highly variable but normally small fraction of the membership. In September 1969, the University Faculty adopted the report, *The Academic Responsibilities of the Faculty*. This report, written by seven of its members, expressed the faculty findings for the division of responsibility for the operation of the university among itself, the students, and the administration. This statement is reproduced in appendix one.

In 1971, after three years of preparation, the University Faculty approved the *Organization and Procedures of the University Faculty (OPUF)*, delegating its historic legislative role to a representative body, the Faculty Council of Representatives (FCR). In October 1995, the FCR was superseded by the Faculty Senate. The University Faculty as a whole continues to have and exercise power to: (a) determine its own membership; (b) elect faculty trustees; (c) participate in the selection of the dean of the faculty; (d) select its officers, other than the president and the dean; (e) postpone or nullify any action of the Senate; (f) require or request reports from its officers and committees, from the Senate, and from others in the university community or elsewhere, as may be authorized or appropriate; (g) express its views concerning any matter within its responsibilities or reasonably related thereto, at a meeting of the Faculty or in such other manner as may be appropriate; and (h) amend its organization and procedures. *OPUF* (see appendix two or the University Faculty website [https://blogs.cornell.edu/deanoffaculty/files/2016/05/](https://blogs.cornell.edu/deanoffaculty/files/2016/05/OPUFREVISED04.08-11800og.pdf)

[OPUFREVISED04.08-11800og.pdf](https://blogs.cornell.edu/deanoffaculty/files/2016/05/OPUFREVISED04.08-11800og.pdf)) has been accepted as charter and bylaws of both the University Faculty and the Faculty Senate.

Legislation adopted by the University Faculty, the FCR, and the Faculty Senate is recorded in the minutes of the meetings. Unless amended or repealed subsequent to the formalization of the University Faculty bylaws in *OPUF*, any legislation previously passed by these bodies remains in force. Copies of proceedings are preserved in the Office of the University Faculty; that office also maintains a record of faculty legislation.

*University Faculty Voting Membership:* Voting members of the University Faculty include the president of the university, *emeritus* professors, university professors, professors-at-large in residence, and all professors, associate professors, and assistant professors of the several colleges, schools and separate academic units at Ithaca and Geneva, including those with courtesy appointments as authorized by the bylaws and *ex officio* members authorized by the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the faculty. (They do not include faculty of the Medical College.)

*Ex officio* membership, with voting privileges, in the University Faculty is accorded to presidents emeriti; the provost; the vice president and CFO; vice presidents and vice provosts; the dean of the University Faculty; the deans of the schools and colleges at Ithaca; the dean of the School of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions; the university librarian and associate and assistant university librarians; the university counsel; the registrar; the directors of cooperative extension for the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Human Ecology, the directors of the agricultural experiment stations at Ithaca and Geneva, and the directors of university health services, athletics and physical education, and Cornell United Religious Work.

*University Faculty Nonvoting Membership:* The nonvoting members of the University Faculty include the university professors, professors, associate professors, and assistant professors in the Medical College and those bearing the adjunct, visiting, or acting title. The University Faculty may grant to any group of nonvoting members the right to vote on any question deemed by the faculty to be of interest to such group. Other persons may be elected to membership in the University Faculty by the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the faculty.

*Candidate for Degree Administered by Cornell.* In 1893, the University Faculty voted that "it is not in accordance with the policy of this Faculty to grant degrees to members of their own body." This principle, although questioned several times, has always been reaffirmed. It has been, since at least 1955, a part of the university bylaws that states that, "No member of the University Faculty may be a candidate for a degree administered by Cornell University." The bylaws also define membership in college and school faculties and add, "No voting member of a college or school faculty may be a candidate for a degree administered by Cornell University." \*\*(see change below)

\*\*Resolution to Amend the University Bylaws to Allow Cornell Faculty to Earn a Graduate Professional Degree from Cornell University was passed on 10/12/11:  
<http://blogs.cornell.edu/deanoffaculty/faculty-senate/current2-draft/resolution-90-resolution-to-amend-the-university-bylaws-to-allow-cornell-faculty-to-earn-a-graduate-professional-degree-from-cornell-university..>  
This was approved by the Board of Trustee in January 2012.

*University Faculty Meetings:* Meetings can be called by the dean (a) upon request of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, or the president; (b) upon request of the Senate; (c) upon request of the University Faculty Committee; (d) upon written petition to the dean of voting members of the faculty, equal in number to one-half of the required quorum for such meeting; (e) upon call of the dean to consider a proposal to postpone or nullify an action of the Senate; and (f) upon call of the dean to

## Dean of the University Faculty

The dean of the University Faculty is the University Faculty's chief administrative officer and its liaison on all matters in which the concerns of the faculty relate to the president, the trustees, or other segments of the university community. The dean, however, is not a member of the university administration.

The dean shall: (1) represent and advocate the interests of the faculty to the president, the trustees, and the university community; (2) advise the president and central administration on matters of university policy and seek the president's advice on matters of concern to the faculty; (3) assist the faculty and the Senate in formulating judgments on questions of concern to the faculty; (4) be available for consultation and advice to members of the faculty, to students, and to members of the university community on matters within the jurisdiction of the faculty; (5) assist in resolving problems for individual faculty members in their relationships with other members of the faculty, with academic or administrative officers, with committees, with students, or other segments of the university community; (6) oversee the work of all committees of the University Faculty or the Senate; (7) serve as an *ex officio* member on each University Faculty and Senate committee; (8) call meetings of the University Faculty and the Senate and prepare and distribute the agenda for those meetings; (9) maintain a file of records of actions, reports of committees, and other records as necessary; (10) prepare reports as deemed appropriate; (11) meet with the Board of Trustees and its Executive Committee in discussions of questions of educational policy; and (12) perform such other functions as determined by the University Faculty or the Senate.

The dean is selected from among the tenured voting members of the faculty. Three months before the deanship becomes vacant, the Committee on Nominations and Elections canvasses the faculty; prepares a slate of three or more candidates for Faculty Senate approval; and circulates a mail ballot, using the Hare system (where voters are asked to rank order their preference), to all voting members of the University Faculty. Subject to confirmation by the Board of Trustees, the candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be appointed dean for a term of three years. This term may be extended for a further period of not more than two years by the Faculty Senate.

## Associate Dean and Secretary of the University Faculty

The associate dean and secretary of the University Faculty (1) assists the dean in carrying out duties as assigned, and serves as acting dean on appropriate occasions; (2) chairs the Nominations and Elections Committee; (3) serves as an *ex officio* member on each University Faculty and Senate committee; (4) supervises the maintenance of minutes of meetings and all records of the University Faculty and Senate; and (5) supervises

publications made in the name of the University Faculty. The associate dean and secretary also serves as secretary and as an *ex officio* voting member of the Senate.

In electing the associate dean and secretary, the Committee on Nominations and Elections canvasses the faculty, prepares a slate of candidates for Faculty Senate approval, and circulates a mail ballot, using the Hare system, to all voting members of the University Faculty. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall serve a three-year term, with the possibility of reappointment by the Senate, for a further period of not more than three years.

The terms of the dean, and the associate dean and secretary, shall be staggered so that only one of these officers shall be elected in any one year.

### Faculty Trustees

Under the terms of the 1984 amendment to the university charter, there are two faculty trustee positions on the Board of Trustees.

A faculty member who has served as faculty representative on the Board of Trustees or as faculty trustee for more than one calendar year shall not be eligible for nomination for the office of faculty trustee for a term commencing less than two years after the expiration of the former term. While professors *emeritus*, if resident in Ithaca, and members of the faculty serving as university administrators, deans, or directors are eligible for nomination, preference shall be given to active members of the faculty who do not hold such offices.

When acting as faculty trustees, faculty members are privileged to express their independent opinions and judgments. However, in view of the fact that the faculty, when it wishes to inform the Board of Trustees of its views, does so either by requesting the president to transmit them to the board or by establishing a special faculty committee to confer with a trustee committee appointed by the board, faculty trustees shall not assume to speak for the faculty, unless expressly authorized by the faculty to do so in particular cases. They may, however, state their opinion as to the probable faculty reaction to any proposal affecting academic or educational policy.

Ithaca-based faculty trustees shall be *ex officio* voting members of the Faculty Senate.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections canvasses the faculty; prepares a slate of trustee candidates for Faculty Senate approval; and circulates a mail ballot, using the Hare system, to all voting members of the University Faculty. The candidate receiving the majority of votes is elected for a four-year term. The results of the election are reported to the president.

## University Faculty Standing Elected Committees

The *University Faculty Committee (UFC)* consists of nine members of the Faculty Senate elected at-large by the faculty for staggered three-year terms. The dean of the faculty serves as chair.

The *Nominations and Elections Committee (N&E)* consists of nine members of the University Faculty, six of whom are elected at large by the faculty and three who are nominated by the Nominations and Elections Committee and appointed by the Faculty Senate, for staggered three-year terms. The secretary of the faculty serves as chair.

Both of the above committees are also committees of the Faculty Senate. For a description of their duties, please refer to pages 19-20.

## University Faculty Standing Appointed Committees

The *Institutional Review Board for Human Participants (IRB)* reviews and approves proposals for research involving human participants, thereby protecting their rights and welfare.

The *Committee on University Lectures* approves proposals and administers funds in support of lectures endorsed by multiple departments, including the prestigious Messenger lecture series.

The *University Faculty Library Board* consults with the university librarian on library policies, and keeps the librarian informed of the needs and concerns of the faculty and students.

The *Committee on Music* concerns itself with the university musical offerings, arranging schedules and securing performances of musical groups.

The *Professor-at-large Selection Committee* annually reviews nominations and selects new Professors-at-Large, i.e. men and women of outstanding international distinction for non-resident Faculty membership.

The *Committee on University-ROTC Relationships* acts for the ROTC program in a manner analogous to an educational policy committee of a college or school, and participates in review committees for instructional appointments, disenrollment hearing boards, scholarship review boards and other *ad hoc* committees related to the ROTC program.