

Faculty Senate (excerpt from the 2019-20 Faculty Handbook, p. 14)

FACULTY SENATE

Mission

The Otis College Faculty Senate is an independent body that participates with the College in shared governance through its commitment to academic integrity and academic freedom. Working in coordination with Academic Assembly, the Faculty Senate promotes faculty participation in institutional decision-making, encourages collegial cooperation among all members of the Otis College community, and advocates for their mutual well-being. The Faculty Senate provides a discrete democratic forum for discussion, consensus-building, proactive communication, and productive action.

Working Structure and Responsibilities

The Faculty Senate provides input and promotes faculty participation in a broad range of institutional issues and policy-making related to the interests and concerns of full-time and adjunct faculty members. The Faculty Senate discusses issues being deliberated by Academic Assembly committees to clarify faculty perspectives. It conducts independent research into and discusses issues—apart from Academic Assembly committee deliberations—including all policies governing faculty promotion, compensation, benefits, workload, contract renewal/non-renewal, distribution of College resources, program development, retrenchment, and redirection to present a unified perspective to the Academic Assembly and/or College Administration. A general meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held each semester.

Membership

Membership of the Faculty Senate consists of all full-time and adjunct faculty members. Faculty Senate Steering Committee meetings are intended primarily for Steering Committee members, although the meetings are open to the entire Faculty Senate membership.

Leadership

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee is the leadership body for the Faculty Senate and consists of one full-time or adjunct faculty representative from each department. Representation on the Steering Committee is determined by the full time and adjunct faculty of each department. Members of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee serve a three-year term, which is recognized as Service to the College. The Steering Committee provides discernment, support, and liaison functions for the Faculty Senate. As representatives, they are expected to attend all meetings of the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, and the Academic Assembly. They are responsible for actively communicating with full-time and adjunct faculty members in their department.

The Faculty Senate leadership consists of two co-Chairs who are appointed by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and the Ex-Officio Chair. The junior co-Chair is selected from those on the committee for the first year and will become senior co-Chair in their second year of service. The co-Chairs of the Faculty Senate serve as the chief spokespersons and liaison to Otis College Administration. The senior co-Chair will move to Ex-Officio in the third year on the committee. The Faculty Senate shall select a Scribe to work with the Faculty Senate co-Chairs to set meeting agendas, record minutes, and distribute both to its membership.