The Role of the Faculty Senate at the University of Delaware

Dr. Chris Williams
Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology
Faculty Senate President
The Work of Faculty
What does our family think we do all day?
But also Service

External Service
• Service to your professional organization
• Service to the community and state
• Public Engagement

Internal Service
• Taking on Administrative Positions
• Committee Work aka Faculty Governance
Service: An essential leg of the “Three Legged Stool”
Key to Success! Shared Governance and Transparency
University of Delaware Charter

- As codified into the Delaware Code of 1953, the Charter of the University of Delaware is in Title 14, Chapter 51, paragraphs 5101-5117. In paragraph 5111, the faculty receive their powers as follows.

- **Par. 5111. Faculty; powers.**

  *The faculty*, consisting of the professors, instructors and others employed by the Board of Trustees, one of whom shall be President of the University, shall *have the care, control, government and instruction of the students*, subject, however, to the bylaws. They shall *have authority*, with the approbation of the Board, *to confer degrees and grant diplomas*. 
Role of Faculty
(3.2.1 Board of Trustees Bylaws)

• The BOT Bylaws organize the Board’s committees and further define the faculty’s powers

• Until otherwise ordered by the Board, and to the extent provided in these Bylaws, authority is hereby delegated to the University Faculty to formulate and administer the academic and educational policies of the University in accordance with the Charter of the University, provided that any changes in academic and educational policies having a material financial impact upon the University shall require approval of the Board
Privileges of the Faculty
(Section 3.2.6 Board of Trustees Bylaws)

To make recommendations to the President or the President’s designee, for transmission to the Board, concerning the formation of policies governing academic appointments, promotions, tenure, dismissals, and salaries.
Responsibilities of the Faculty
Section 3.2.5 Board of Trustees Bylaws

- Make recommendations
  - on the rules and regulations for the government and discipline of the student body
  - on educational and academic policies of admission
  - concerning the establishment of any degree program or the disestablishment of any degree program

- Determine the requirements for academic degrees

- Consider and make recommendations for proposed changes in University organization.
  - Changes in University organization shall include the establishment or abolition of academic departments, colleges or divisions; the transfer of a department or division from one college to another; and the establishment or abolition of administrative offices that are directly concerned with academic matters
Faculty Handbook

• Faculty Handbook: (Result of Actions taken by Senate, resolutions)
  – http://facultyhandbook.udel.edu
  – Faculty Handbook contains information on the organization of the faculty, organization and conduct of academic programs, personnel policies for faculty and personnel benefits, promotion and tenure, etc.
Faculty Participate in Shared Governance at Every Level

University

Colleges - 7

- Arts & Sciences
- Lerner Business & Economics
- Engineering
- Health Sciences
- Education and Human Development
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Earth, Ocean, and the Environment

Departments - 54
Committees at Every Level of the System

Department – e.g. undergrad/graduate curriculum, promotion and tenure, faculty search, enrollment
Committees at Every Level of the System

College – e.g. undergrad/graduate curriculum, promotion and tenure, admin policy, College senate, diversity and inclusion

Department – e.g. undergrad/graduate curriculum, promotion and tenure, faculty search, enrollment
Committees at Every Level of the System

University – Faculty Senate, numerous administrative and ad hoc committees

College – e.g. undergrad/graduate curriculum, promotion and tenure, admin policy, College senate, diversity and inclusion

Department – e.g. undergrad/graduate curriculum, promotion and tenure, faculty search, enrollment
University Wide Faculty Senate Committees
What we do…

Faculty Senate Administrative
- Executive Committee
- Committees and Nominations
- Academic Priorities and Presidential Advisory Committee
- Rules

Educational Programs
- Coordinating Committee on Education
- General Education Committee
- Undergraduate Studies
- Graduate Studies

Faculty Issues
- Faculty Welfare and Privileges
- Promotions and Tenure
- Student and Faculty Honors

University Administrative Liaison
- Research
- Instructional, Computing, and Research Support
- Library
- Budget Committee

Student Related Committees
- Academic Appeals
- Student Life

Diversity and Culture
- International Studies
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Cultural Activities and Public Events
University Faculty Senate
*(College of Arts and Sciences has its own Faculty Senate)*

- **62 elected Senators**
  - 50 representing ~1250 faculty from all 7 colleges
  - 6 Exec, 4 Grad/UG Students, 2 librarians
- **12 ex-officio non elected Senators**
  - President, Provost and 3 Deputy Provosts/Vice Presidents, 7 Deans
- Senate meets the first working Monday of the month during the academic year
- Hold open hearings on important issues
- Provide communications
2018-19 Faculty Senate Executive Committee

5 Colleges and most diverse in history

- Chris Williams, President (Entomology and Wildlife Ecology) ckwillia@udel.edu
- Matt Robinson, President-Elect (Sports Management)
- Martha Buell, Past President (Human Development and Family Sciences)
- Lynnette Overby, Vice President (Theatre)
- Amy Johnson, COCAN Chair (School of Nursing)
- Alan Fox, Secretary (Philosophy)
- John Jebb, Parliamentarian (English)
Recent Actions

• Broadly… increased student participation and voice on committees, improve communication

• In Spring, MANY Program and curriculum changes…

• Non Binding Recommendations
  – Creation of an Ombudsman Office (May, 2018)
  – Provide Free Tuition to children of fallen Delaware First Responders (May 2018)
  – Promote use of CANR organic foods and planting or native plants on STAR campus (Sept 2018)
Up and Coming Resolutions

Creation of a Graduate College

May 2018 Passed Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate intends to establish a Graduate College by January 1, 2019, contingent on passage of further resolutions by the Faculty Senate on or before that date approving (1) an organizational structure that shows relationships among the new Graduate College and existing graduate programs, departments, colleges, the Provost office, and research office, and (2) a draft version of By-laws for the new Graduate College. The organizational structure and draft Bylaws shall be drafted by an ad hoc Faculty Senate committee to be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate in consultation with the Provost no later than June 1, 2018.
Up and Coming Resolutions

Improving Tenure Track Policies

• Encourage excellence and productivity, mentorship, clarity of procedure
Panel Discussion
Questions?