The University Legislature consists of the University Council and its Senate

The University Council includes administrators and all benefitted faculty, including lecturers, instructors, assistant, associate, and full professors – all entitled to vote

The Council meets at least once a semester

A quorum of 25% is needed to conduct Council business

Source: UND Constitution
Functions of the University Senate

Source: UND Constitution

• The University Senate meets once a month during fall and spring semesters to exercise the powers of the Council.

• The Senate provides an avenue for faculty to express their position on institutional matters.

• All actions regarding university policy undertaken by the Council, Senate or its committees are submitted to the President for approval.
The UND Constitution

- Become familiar with UND’s governing documents
- According to the UND Constitution, “the [State Board of Higher Education] entrusts the execution of all its plans and policies, together with the internal government and administration of the institution, to the President in consultation with the faculty and such other officers as the President may select.”

What is Shared Governance?

• Shared governance in higher education involves a culture of decision-making that draws upon the expertise, experiences, and perspectives of faculty.

• It involves allowing faculty to actively participate in determining policies and procedures related to admissions, curriculum, instruction, granting of degrees, research, tenure, appointments, budgets, administrator hiring/evaluation and other matters.

Mutual Openness and Trust

• Shared governance includes “embracing a commitment to a genuine sharing of perspectives...an eagerness to embrace good ideas generated by others...accompanied by recognition that nimble decision making is required...Faculty members need to be given evidence that they are indeed genuine partners in a shared undertaking...A key is to establish trust...[a] critically important determinant of success or failure.”

Importance of Communication

• “The key to genuine shared governance is broad and unending communication. When various groups of people are kept in the loop and understand what developments are occurring within the university, and when they are invited to participate as true partners, the institution prospers. That, after all, is our common goal.”
  
  • Gary Olson, Provost, Idaho State University, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (July 23, 2009)
Shared Governance at UND

- The UND Constitution supports shared governance
- As stated in the UND Constitution, absent emergency conditions, the President is expected to:
  - Consult with the University legislature and impacted college and department faculty when making policy recommendations
  - Consult with the University Senate on the planning, organization, budgeting and use of physical resources
  - Confer with faculty on administrative appointments
Role of the University Senate

- The University Senate and its standing committees provide the structure for shared governance at UND.
  - Over 50 faculty serve as voting members of Senate.
- Committees have the power to develop and alter many policies and procedures that govern our work.
  - There are 22 standing committees (9 academic, 3 research, 10 administrative/other).
  - There are over 170 faculty seats on Senate committees.
- Committee members are invited to attend Senate.
• Get involved by serving on a University Senate committee!
• Faculty members do not need to be a Senator to serve on committees
• Information about each committee can be found on the Senate website
Become familiar with the University Senate website

On the University Senate website you will find:

- A link to the Faculty Handbook
- Meeting agendas and minutes
- Information about Senate committees
- List of current Senators and contact information
- Governing documents such as Senate Bylaws and the UND Constitution

https://und.edu/academics/university-senate/
When & How the Senate Meets

• Senate terms begin September 1 each year
• The Senate meets the first Thursday of each month from 3:30 – 5pm
• The Senate Executive Committee sets the agenda two weeks before each meeting
• The agenda, attachments, and previous meeting minutes (or links) are emailed to Senators and posted one week in advance
• All meetings will be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future; voting members will receive an invitation to participate as a panelist
Elements of Senate Meetings

1. Announcements – can be lengthy and include visitors
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes
3. Question period – limited to 20 minutes, please state your name when addressing the Senate
4. Consent calendar – committee reports, matters likely needing little/no discussion, often voted on as a block
5. Business calendar – matters that need greater discussion and a vote, old and new business
6. Matters arising – issues too new to have made it to the agenda
Some Standing Rules of the University Senate

• When we meet in person, Senators should sit in the front half of the room
• Senator attendance records are posted each semester
• All votes of the Senate are open, public votes
• Only Senators may speak during Senate meetings; visitors may speak with consent from Senate
• Members should not speak for more than 2 consecutive minutes without majority vote
Protocols for Speaking during Senate Meetings

- Raise your hand if you wish to be recognized to speak to a motion or issue or to raise a question
- When you are recognized, state your name before addressing the Senate
- It is imperative that all Senators and visitors conduct themselves professionally during meetings – please treat others with respect
• Please review the parliamentary procedure guide posted

• A few reminders:
  • Only one main motion at a time
  • Discussion/amendments must be germane
  • No motions may be ignored (unless out of order)
  • Motions must be acted upon
  • Motions may be amended
  • Amendments must be seconded and voted upon before going back to main motion
  • Motions may be tabled
  • Closing debate must be approved by 2/3 majority
  • Some votes are recorded (business calendar), others not (consent calendar)
  • Senate meetings adjourn at 5:30 unless someone moves to extend the time
Thank you for serving on the University Senate!