

University Senate

Twamley Hall, Room 201
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UND.edu/university-senate

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT UND GOVERNANCE**Executive Summary**

University Senators at the April 2015 University Senate meeting passed two motions to restructure the University Senate. First, Senators voted to form a Faculty Senate, following the voice of benefitted faculty in a February referendum (with a total 39% response rate, 80% were in favor of forming a Faculty Senate) and the strong recommendations the U Senate Ad-hoc Committee on Shared Governance. That committee had spent two years researching and redrafting proposals for a Faculty Senate, based on feedback from peers at multiple stages. Those reports, as well as the U Senate initiated faculty surveys and referendum votes, are available on the UND University Senate homepage. <http://und.edu/university-senate/>

Two ad-hoc committees, the University Senate Revision Committee and the Faculty Senate Development Committee, worked over the summer of 2015 to compose draft language for a revised UND Constitution and a new UND Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws, as charged by University Senators in April. The draft UND Constitution will be released first for a broad campus discussion. The hardworking members of both committees are named at the end of this memo.

The two groups have researched best practices in shared governance models, and have collaborated in good faith to rethink the entire governance structure at UND. We believe that we have an opportunity to build an increasingly effective and productive working relationship among our three Senates and our Administration. Our best thinking produced three new documents: a UND Constitution, a UND Faculty Senate Constitution, and a UND Faculty Senate Bylaws.

A New Constitution for UND

The new UND Constitution preserves the core of the current UND Constitution.

- Old Article I grew to become the new **Preamble** and **Preface**, including excerpts of the UND Mission.
- Old Article II remained as the new **Article I** – the overview of the three Senates, articulating the source and domain of authority, and the body that exercises that authority; language stipulating membership, meetings, and powers stands in the Faculty Senate Constitution & Bylaws, included here by reference.
- Old Article III remained as the new **Article II** – the purview of the UND President, with reference to SBHE Policy.
- Old Article IV and V were struck as they dealt more with organizational structure than governance.
- Old Article VI became new **Article III** on faculty and staff employment terms. Critical language on faculty Promotion, Tenure, and Evaluation were struck, as they stand – appropriately – in the UND Faculty Handbook.
- Old Article VII permeates the document, most visibly in the new **Preamble** and **Preface**.
- Old Article VIII remained as new **Article IV**, strengthened to accommodate the new tricameral structure.
- New **Article V** stands to confirm the process of the ratification of the Constitution at UND and SBHE.

The conceptual change in the new UND Constitution recognizes and establishes a tricameral structure. Three governing bodies stand as authoritative over each set of constituents: faculty, staff, and students. Matters of joint importance (in particular, the domains of budget, legislative affairs, and policy) flow through a collaborative Senate Coordinating Committee that has equal representation of faculty, staff, students, and administrators. The Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Student Government will revise their governing documents to assure alignment with the new UND Constitution.

Per the current UND Constitution, amendments must be passed in two consecutive meetings of the University Senate. They are then sent to the UND President and the NDUS Chancellor for approval by the SBHE. As stated in new Article V, we will insert a vote of the University Council following University Senate ratification to endorse the changes.

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A New Constitution & Bylaws for the UND Faculty Senate

The new UND Faculty Senate Constitution is a document that did not exist under the University Senate structure. Matters belonging in a Faculty Senate Constitution were lifted from the current University Constitution and preserved. The new Faculty Senate Constitution outlines the source of its authority, the body that exercises that power, and the domains of the granting authority. It empowers the Faculty to legislate on all matters concerning the academic enterprise. The new UND Faculty Senate Constitution draws heavily on the NDSU Faculty Senate Constitution, which clearly states the domain of faculty governance. The alignment allows for an advantageous parallel with our sister institution within the NDUS.

A document stating University Senate Bylaws does currently exist, and relevant information was preserved in the new document. Once again, the committee created new UND Faculty Senate Bylaws by drawing heavily on existing NDSU Faculty Senate documents. The Faculty Senate Bylaws define membership, organization and operation, and the committee structure of the new body.

How to Voice Your Opinion

We have arrived at this watershed moment thanks to the hard work and vision of many people over the past several years. The next steps require extensive conversation across campus. We ask for your willingness to engage in dialogue as we complete the conceptual work required to move us forward. Circulate ideas among your University Senate Committees. Discuss the draft with peers at your department meeting. Reach out to the leadership teams and Executive Committees of Staff Senate, Student Government, and University Senate. Talk to your elected University Senators about your position and questions. Attend the University Senate meetings on the first and second Thursday of each month to hear the Senators' conversation. Write your comments in the "Your Feedback" button on the University Senate homepage. The draft documents will remain housed there during the discussion period this semester. <http://und.edu/university-senate/>

Thank you in advance for joining the dialogue – we anticipate the conversation as we present our work to you.

The Faculty Senate Development Committee

Rebecca Weaver-Hightower	University Senate Chair
Curtis Stofferahn	Past University Senate Chair
Nancy Vogeltanz-Holm	Faculty member currently not elected to University Senate
Pam Henderson	Staff Senate Vice President
Taylor Nelson	Student Body Vice President
John Miller	President's Designee from UND Administration

The University Senate Revision Committee

Melissa Gjellstad	University Senate Past Chair
James Grijalva	Past University Senate Chair
Dexter Perkins	Faculty member currently not elected to University Senate
Sharley Kurtz	Staff Senate President
Matthew Kopp	Student Body President
Steven Light	President's Designee from UND Administration