Faculty Senate FAQs

When and who oversees the elections for senate members? Current senate members from each respective college/group consult and assign someone who will handle the process. Check your respective college/group by-laws for procedures. It is fine for faculty senate members to solicit assistance from the dean’s office in sending out and receiving secret ballots. Faculty should oversee the process and count votes received. All faculty within the college are given the opportunity to be involved and vote.

FSH 1520, Article V, Section 6. Elections. Regular elections for senators in the senate are held before April 15 of each year in which an election is to be held. All elections for members of the senate are by secret ballot. Appropriate procedures for nominations and elections are developed and approved by a majority vote of the faculty of the college or other unit.

Members on Senate whose term is expiring 2017:

Luigi Boschetti, CNR
Andrew Brewick, Staff
Allan Caplan, CALS
Yun Chung, Business
Annette Folwell, CLASS
James Foster, Science
Bruce Godfrey, CDA
Greg Donohoe, Engr. (served one year Clint Jeffery’s term)

How long is a term on Faculty Senate?

FSH 1520, Article V, Section 4. Terms of Office. Elected faculty members of the senate serve for three years. The academic dean shall serve one year, the staff representatives shall serve for staggered two year terms. The terms of office for student members are as established by the senate. [See 1580 VI.] Newly elected members take office each year on September 1 or on the official opening date of the academic year, whichever is earlier. To carry out the requirement that approximately one-third of the elected faculty members are to take office each year, the senate may shorten the initial term of office of faculty senators elected to fill new positions in the senate to conform to a balanced rotation plan. When members are elected to fill a vacancy, they take office at the first meeting after the election and serve for the unexpired term of the vacancy. A faculty member elected to the senate may serve two consecutive terms. After serving two consecutive terms the faculty senate member must wait one full year before they are again eligible for election.[see also FSH 1580 III-3].

What if I will be gone for one month, or for more than four months?

FSH 1520, Article V, Section 7. Vacancies.

Clause A. If it is necessary for a member of the senate to be absent temporarily (more than a month, but less than four months), the candidate who received the next highest number of votes in the most recent election in the college or unit acts as his or her alternate in the senate with full vote. If it is necessary for a member to be absent for more than four months, but less than one year, a special election is held to fill the temporary vacancy. When the senate member returns, he or she resumes the position in the senate. If it is necessary for a member to be absent for more than one year, or if the member is unable to complete the term of office for any reason, a special election is held to fill the unexpired term. [See 1580 VI for procedures covering student vacancies.]

Clause B. The chair of the Faculty Senate must declare a position vacant if a member is absent from three consecutive meetings unless the member has informed the chair of the senate in writing that he or she intends to participate fully in the activities of
the senate in the future. When a position is declared vacant, the chair must notify
the constituency concerned.

**What is the Center Senator’s Role?**

1520 Article V. Section 2. Structure. A (2). University Centers. The resident faculty of
the university centers in Boise, Coeur d’Alene and Idaho Falls each elects one senator
from among its number. Those senators shall have the right to participate and vote in
faculty senate meetings by means of available two-way video-audio technology located
at the centers. If the available technology fails, telephone conferencing will be used.
Senators elected to represent a center have a unique role on senate, which is to provide
a voice and vote from the perspective of their centers. That perspective is not intended
to be college and/or discipline specific.

**What if I have replaced a member from my college who resigned from Faculty
Senate, can I serve again?**

1580 Article III, Section 3. Members Completing Unexpired Terms. A member who has
been elected or appointed to complete the unexpired term of another member and has
served more than half of that term will be considered to have served one full term.