Position Title: Senator to the Faculty (University) Senate.

College (department/unit)/Group/Center:

Faculty Senate (FSH 1520 V and 1580) - Shared Governance. The faculty, the president, and the regents are jointly responsible for governing the university (Territorial Act 1889). Decision-making structures and processes take into consideration the views of faculty, staff, administrators and students on matters in which they have a direct and reasonable interest (Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, Standard 2.A.1.). It is both a privilege and a responsibility to be a member of the Senate.

1. Senate’s Role/Purpose. Faculty Senate (Senate) is empowered to act for the university faculty in all matters pertaining to the immediate government of the university. The Senate is responsible to and reports to the university faculty and, through the president, to the regents. The university faculty, president, and regents retain the authority to review policy actions taken by the Senate (FSH 1520 Article I. Section 3.). Senate takes on a range of issues including advising, curricula, promotion and tenure, benefits, morale, salary, teaching evaluations, safety, etc. The Policy Coordinator/Faculty Secretary’s Office receives curricula and policy changes throughout the year from various Senate committees (UCC, Faculty Affairs, etc.) and many administrative offices (HR, Research, etc.). Senate also hears reports/updates on many university matters to ensure communication of important information. Everyone at the university is affected by decisions of the Senate.

2. Senator’s Role: Senators are elected to represent a particular constituency. As representatives Senators are responsible for keeping that constituency apprised of issues that come before the Senate. The primary responsibility of each Senator is to bring the perspectives of constituents to issues of importance to the university, keeping the welfare of the entire institution in mind. The Senate can influence the working environment for all UI employees and helps set the university’s agenda. Thus, Senators should voice critical perspectives when appropriate. Finally, Senators serve not only as a source of information for colleagues, but also as a source of information on behalf of colleagues to the Senate and the university administration.

Center Senator Role: Pursuant to FSH 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.” The constituency of Center Senators is the entire center faculty, not solely the faculty from the particular Senator’s college or discipline. Center Senators provide a voice and vote from the perspective of their centers that is not college and/or discipline specific.

3. Expectations:

- Be prepared, read material before each meeting to move the agenda along through informed discussion and voting.
- Regularly check the Senate website for updated meeting materials.
- Keep constituents informed - develop a strong relationship with your constituents (create an email distribution list to send “talking points” or communications of your choice), solicit and relay feedback on pending policy changes or pressing issues affecting the university.
- Consider the broader issues and impact Senate’s decisions have on the university as a whole, rather than a specific college, unit or group.
- Rely on, and respect the work and time of colleagues on committees or other groups appearing before Senate, read provided summaries and avoid drafting or re-drafting policy (other than minor changes).
- Suggest and encourage productive interactions with administration and stake-holders.
- Read communications that are sent out university-wide e.g. The Daily Register, president, provost, facilities, finance, research.
- Bring policy issues to the attention of the Senate Leadership.
- Ensure that elections for Senate in the Senator’s constituent area are conducted according to applicable rules and completed in a timely fashion.
General Meeting Rules:

- Speakers should be recognized by the chair prior to speaking. Each person speaks once before being recognized a second time, although some back and forth in response to the original question is often permitted by the chair depending on time. Be conscious of time and other interested participants – brevity is important.

- Voting on motions is by show of hands; no absentee/proxy votes are allowed. (FSH 1580 V, Section 11).

- Abstentions are not asked for or recorded in minutes, unless specifically requested by abstainer (FSH 1580 V, Section 11).

- Alternates/substitutes are welcomed and may sit at the Senate table and participate in discussion (FSH 1580 V, Section 7) but cannot vote (see exception in FSH 1520, Article V. Section 7. Vacancies).

- Senate follows Roberts’s Rule of Order.