



Level: University Policy
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Policy Owner: Board of Trustees
Policy Implementation: President

FACULTY SENATE

POLICY

Pursuant to Alabama Law, Act No. 2026-432, the Athens State University Board of Trustees hereby establishes a framework for faculty academic consultation at Athens State University through the Faculty Senate.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Faculty Senate shall serve as an advisory body to the President, Provost, and senior academic leadership on matters related to the academic mission and institutional operations of the University.

The Faculty Senate is intended to promote meaningful faculty engagement, facilitate communication between faculty and University leadership, and provide informed recommendations regarding academic and institutional matters affecting the University community.

The Faculty Senate shall not possess, exercise, or be delegated final decision-making authority on any institutional matter. All authority for institutional governance, policy adoption, and final decision-making shall remain vested in the Board of Trustees and University administration, consistent with applicable law, Board policy, and University procedures.

The Faculty Senate may not issue public statements on behalf of Athens State University, represent institutional positions, or speak for the Board, the President, the administration, or the University. Any communication by the Faculty Senate shall be clearly identified as advisory in nature and shall not be presented as an official position of Athens State University unless expressly authorized by the President or the Board.

MEMBERSHIP/DISMISSAL

Pursuant to Alabama Law, Act No. 2026-432, the Faculty Senate will consist of:

- not more than 60 members
- with four representatives from each College or School. Of the four College representatives, two shall be appointed by the President of the institution, and two shall be elected by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective college or school.
- The Board also authorizes two representatives from the University Library faculty to serve on the Faculty Senate. Of the two representatives, one shall be appointed by the President of the institution, and one shall be elected by a vote of the Library faculty.

- Members of the Faculty Senate may be removed from service in accordance with applicable law, Board policy, University policy, and procedures established pursuant to this policy. Grounds for removal may include, but are not limited to:
 - failure to conduct Faculty Senate responsibilities in good faith; failure to operate within the advisory parameters of the Faculty Senate; repeated failure to attend Faculty Senate meetings; misconduct;
 - upon recommendation of the Provost and approval by the President.
- Faculty Senate leadership positions are appointed by the President.

IMPLEMENTATION

The President is authorized to adopt, approve, revise, or rescind procedures, guidelines, election processes, appointment processes, operating rules, forms, timelines, transitional measures, and other implementation details necessary to carry out this policy and ensure the effective operation of the Faculty Senate.

The President may delegate implementation responsibilities to the Provost or other appropriate University officials.