



FS-# 2015/2016

I. Proposal Name:

Faculty Handbook revisions solely controlled by the Faculty Senate

II. Sponsoring Committee:

Faculty Handbook Committee

III. Background:

The purpose of the Faculty Handbook is twofold: 1) to codify the protocols, policies, and procedures by which the Faculty govern themselves, and 2) define and regulate the interaction and respective authority of Faculty Members relative to Administration, Staff, and Students.

The UCO Faculty Handbook may not be in violation of RUSO policy, but it may expand upon RUSO policy where such policies are undefined or not specific.

Prior to 1995, revisions to the Faculty Handbook were made exclusively by the Faculty Senate. However, for the past 20 years, Academic Affairs has maintained control of the Faculty Handbook. Thus, revisions to the Handbook generally arise from administrative offices and are intended to address administrative, not faculty, needs.

President Betz has noted to the UCO chapter of the American Association of University Professors that he believes that the Faculty Handbook belongs to the Faculty.

IV. Proposal Statement:

The Faculty Senate expresses its interest to return control of the Faculty Handbook to the Faculty Senate alone. To accomplish this goal, the following actions must be taken:

- 1) Existing committees concerned with the Faculty Handbook that were assembled by Academic Affairs, Faculty Senate, or other bodies will be dissolved.
- 2) Elections will occur in the Faculty Senate to appoint five Senators to a Faculty Handbook Committee. Senators may serve on the Committee no more than two consecutive, one-year terms. Senators may serve again on the Committee after at least a one year hiatus from the Committee.
- 3) Proposed edits to the Faculty Handbook must arise from the Handbook Committee. While faculty members, Senators, and Administrators may provide proposals to the

Committee, the Committee has sole authority to determine the language used in revisions of the Handbook.

- 4) The Handbook Committee may request Administration to comment on proposed revisions to the Handbook. Any Administration requests to alter language of proposed Handbook revisions must be approved by a majority vote of the Committee. Any revisions to the Faculty Handbook initiated or requested by Administration must be clearly indicated as such when such revisions are presented to the whole Faculty Senate for a vote.
- 5) Proposed revisions to the Faculty Handbook that are passed by a majority vote of the Faculty Senate are final and may not subsequently be edited by other bodies on campus. The language of Faculty Senate-approved revisions to the Handbook must be included in the next academic year's edition of the Faculty Handbook.
- 6) The Faculty Senate retains the right to alter the Handbook at will and to any extent, provided revisions are not in contradiction with Regents' policy.