



**FACULTY SENATE PROPOSAL
FSP 2020-2021-003**

I. Proposal Name:

UCO FACULTY HANDBOOK SOLELY GOVERNED BY THE UCO FACULTY SENATE

II. Background:

The purpose of the UCO 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 RUSCO policy where such policies are undefined or not specific.

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

In its term 2015-2016, the UCO Faculty Senate affirmed its position that the UCO Faculty Handbook is solely under the approval of the UCO Faculty through its UCO Faculty Senate.

The UCO chapter of the American Association of University Professors stands for the proposition that the Faculty Handbook belongs to the Faculty.

III. Proposal Statement:

The UCO Faculty Senate expresses its interest to affirm governance and control of the UCO Faculty Handbook with the UCO Faculty Senate. To accomplish this goal, the following actions must be taken:

- 1) Proposed edits to the UCO Faculty Handbook must arise from the UCO Faculty Senate Academic Affairs/Faculty Handbook Committee (FSAAFHC). While faculty members, Faculty Senators, and Administrators may provide proposals to the Committee, the Committee has sole authority to determine the language used in revisions of the UCO Faculty Handbook.

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

IV. Sponsoring Committee:

This proposal submitted to the UCO Faculty Senate on 8 April 2021 by the

UCO FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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This proposal was approved by the UCO Faculty Senate on 29 April 2021.



JENNIFER BARGER JOHNSON
UCO Faculty Senate President