



FACULTY SENATE PROPOSAL

FSP-2021-2022-02

Faculty Handbook & Academic Affairs

I. Proposal Name:

Faculty Senate Representative added to UCO President's Cabinet

II. Stated Proposal

To provide regular, permanent UCO faculty representation, the Faculty Senate proposes that a faculty member be added to the President's Cabinet, with the same rights and responsibilities as other members of the Cabinet. That cabinet member shall be the President of Faculty Senate or a current Faculty Senate member designated by the President of Faculty Senate.

III. Background & Justification:

Recognizing the vital role the University of Central Oklahoma faculty plays in shared governance, the faculty, the administration, and the Regional University System of Oklahoma established the University of Central Oklahoma Faculty Association and its Faculty Senate. The UCO Faculty Senate serves as the official voice of the UCO Faculty Association and its members.

Our mission, as stated in the Faculty Handbook, is that "UCO exists to help students learn by providing transformative educational experiences to students so that they may become productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders serving our global community." The educational experiences that serve as the basis of UCO's existence are created, implemented, and evaluated by the faculty, who have unique insights into what students need to learn, and how university actions and policies affect student learning.

As currently constituted, the President's Cabinet is not able to fully represent UCO faculty nor bring their critical insights to the decision-making process. Seven of the eight positions on the Cabinet are held by members with an operational focus rather than on day-to-day classroom responsibilities. The sole member of the Cabinet with faculty experience is the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, who occupies dual roles as both administrator and faculty member. There is no one on the Cabinet with the sole responsibility to provide faculty expertise and insight to the President and rest of the Cabinet.

This move will bring UCO more in line with its peer institutions. At present, four of our peer institutions have a faculty representative on their institutions' President's Cabinets (or equivalent bodies). The Cabinets of the remaining six peer institutions include multiple members with a faculty background prior to taking administrative positions.


Without this faculty voice, the Cabinet lacks a crucial perspective on how university decisions will affect the performance of the university's core mission, as well as an important channel for information sharing and collaboration between faculty and administration. Faculty representation on the Cabinet will:

- provide important and unique context, perspective, and experience from educators in the classroom
- anticipate possible problems before and during implementation of administration decisions, and assess the impact of these decisions in the classroom
- improve communication both directions between Cabinet and faculty
- strengthen trust and collaboration between the administration and the faculty

Submitted by the Faculty Handbook and Academic Affairs Committee.

Recommended for Approval by the Faculty Handbook and Academic Affairs Committee.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ON 10 FEBRUARY 2022.



JENNIFER BARGER JOHNSON
UCO Faculty Senate President