



**FACULTY SENATE PROPOSAL  
FSP 2021-2022-009**

**I. Proposal Name:**

**UCO FACULTY HANDBOOK JOINTLY 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 RUSO 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 27 years, UCO's Academic Affairs has maintained control of the UCO Faculty Handbook. Thus, revisions to the UCO Faculty Handbook often 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. As of 2022, the Faculty Handbook Editorial Committee is facilitated by Academic Affairs Provost's Office and is a collective process between Academic Affairs, a representative from each college, a Dean representative, a member of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the Chairperson of the Faculty Handbook Editorial Committee from Faculty Senate, and the Faculty Senate President. Shared governance occurs throughout the process and changes are voted on by the Faculty Senate as a whole.

If administration were to change in the future, with the current structure it cannot be assured that this collaborative, shared process would continue. Thus, the Faculty Senate requests this assurance through joint leadership of the Faculty Handbook solidified in a written statement added into the Faculty Handbook.

### **III. Proposal Statement:**

The UCO Faculty Senate expresses its interest to affirm shared governance of the UCO Faculty Handbook between Academic Affairs Administration, the UCO Faculty Senate, and the UCO Chapter of the American Association of University Professors. To accomplish this goal, the following actions are requested:

- 1) Proposed edits to the UCO Faculty Handbook go through the full process of 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 the 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.

### **IV. Sponsoring Committee: UCO FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

JENNIFER BARGER JOHNSON  
KRISTI ARCHULETA  
MARGARET MORAN  
ALYSSA PROVENCIO  
AMANDA WATERS

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ON 14 APRIL 2022.**



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**JENNIFER BARGER JOHNSON**  
UCO Faculty Senate President