

Idaho State University
Faculty Constitution Draft
as approved by Provisional Faculty Senate on October 24, 2011

Preamble

To facilitate communication, understanding, and cooperation among the officers of Idaho State University, and to ensure the orderly development of educational programs and policies committed to our trust, we, the president and faculty of Idaho State University, do hereby subscribe to this constitution establishing principles of organization, authority, and responsibility of the Idaho State University faculty. In adopting this constitution the president and faculty of Idaho State University affirm our belief in academic freedom and responsibility as specified in the Idaho State Board of Education Governing Policies and Procedures and the American Association of University Professors 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure.

Institutions of higher education are established for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual faculty member or the institution as a whole, and the common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition through scholarship.

Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to teaching, research (including scholarly and creative activities), and service. Academic freedom in teaching is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. Academic freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in service is fundamental to the advancement of the common good and the development of educational programs and policies. Academic freedom should not be abridged or abused. Academic freedom carries with it duties correlative with rights.

Faculty are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject.

Faculty are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

Faculty are entitled to speak or write freely without institutional discipline or restraint on matters pertaining to faculty governance and development of educational programs and policies.

College and university faculty members are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of the educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for

the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

Article I: Name

The Idaho State University faculty is comprised of three categories as defined by Article II.

Article II: Membership

THE FACULTY of the University shall comprise two categories of members hereinafter referred to as: 1) Academic Faculty, and 2) Administrative Faculty. Associated faculties constitute a third category: 3) Adjunct, Affiliate, and Visiting Faculty.

Section 1: Academic Faculty

The Academic Faculty of the University will include all Tenure-track and Tenured faculty with appointments as Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Instructor, Departmental chairpersons and professional librarians. The Academic faculty also includes non-tenure track faculty, at 0.5 FTE or greater, with appointments as Instructor (all levels and designations), Lecturer, Associate Lecturer, Assistant Lecturer, Clinical Professor, Clinical Associate Professor, Clinical Assistant Professor, Clinical Instructor, Research Professor, Research Associate Professor, and Research Assistant Professor.

Section 2: Administrative Faculty

The Administrative Faculty of the University will include the president of the University; the provost and vice president for academic affairs, the vice president for research, the deans of the colleges, divisions and the university libraries, and all permanent administrative officials who are qualified to hold academic rank and are designated as members of the administrative faculty by the president.

Section 3: Adjunct, Affiliate, and Visiting Faculty

The Adjunct, Affiliate, and Visiting Faculty include those faculty with a limited contractual relationship with the University, including part-time (adjunct), non-compensatory (affiliate), and visiting faculty. Individuals in this category are not part of THE FACULTY.

Article III: Powers and Authority

Section 1: General

Recommendations are made to the President and the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs of the University.

- a. THE FACULTY has primary responsibility on matters of educational policy within the limits prescribed by federal and state law and the regulations of the Idaho State Board of Education. Educational policy pertains to such matters as curricula, methods of instruction, facilities and materials for instruction, standards for admission and retention of students, and criteria for the granting of degrees. It also includes those aspects of student life that relate directly to the educational process including the

establishment of regulations concerning financial aid, academic performance, extracurricular activities, and freedom of action and expression.

On these matters the power of review or final decision lodged in the governing board or delegated by it to the president should be exercised adversely only in exceptional circumstances, and for reasons communicated to the faculty. It is desirable that the faculty should, following such communication, have opportunity for further consideration and further transmittal of its views to the president or board. Budgets, personnel limitations, the time element, and the policies of other groups, bodies, and agencies having jurisdiction over the institution may set justifiable limits to realization of faculty advice.

- b. THE FACULTY has primary responsibility for policies and procedures governing the performance of research, scholarship and creative activities.
- c. THE FACULTY has primary responsibility for policies and procedures governing faculty appointment, tenure, and promotion.
- d. THE FACULTY has primary responsibility for policies and procedures governing the performance of faculty service.
- e. THE FACULTY will normally function through its representative body, the Faculty Senate (see Article V). However THE FACULTY will also have the rights of initiative and referendum, as specified in Article IV: Section 2e and Section 3, Article V: Section 3d, and in Article VI: Section 1.

Section 2: College, School, Division, Department, and the Library

Within the limits of policies approved by the Idaho State Board of Education, the policies and practices within the particular college, school, division, department, or the library will be determined by the members of THE FACULTY of the specific college, school, division, department, or the library and will normally be implemented by the interested dean or chairperson.

Article IV: Organization of THE FACULTY

Section 1: Presiding Officer

The Chair of the Faculty Senate is the presiding officer of THE FACULTY. The Chair of the Faculty Senate or his or her designee will preside at the meetings of the THE FACULTY, and will oversee the reporting and distribution of the non-transcripted summary of the meetings.

Section 2: Meetings of THE FACULTY

- a. Schedule
Meetings of THE FACULTY may be called by the President of the University or the Chair of the Faculty Senate. The Chair of the Faculty Senate must call a meeting at the written petition of ten percent of THE FACULTY or a majority vote of the Senate.
- b. Notice

Written notice of each meeting shall be circulated to THE FACULTY at least three business days prior to the date of the meeting. The agenda for each meeting will be attached to the notice.

c. Quorum

Official business calling for a vote requires a quorum. Twenty percent (20%) of THE FACULTY constitutes a quorum. Members must be physically present at designated meeting sites. Proxy votes will not be recognized for absent individuals. The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will provide on September 1 the number of Academic and Administrative Faculty as described in Article II.

d. Procedure

Each member of THE FACULTY will have a free and equal voice in all deliberations. Academic and Administrative Faculty members will be entitled to one vote each. In the absence of special regulations to the contrary, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order as designated by the president of the Faculty Senate shall govern the procedure of all meetings of THE FACULTY.

e. Faculty Review of Senate or Presidential Action

(1) THE FACULTY may override an action taken by the Faculty Senate. To override a specific action of the Faculty Senate, THE FACULTY may conduct a vote. A majority of those present and voting at a meeting of THE FACULTY may call for a vote of THE FACULTY. According to the provisions of Article V, Section 3d, such ballot will be accompanied by the minutes of the meeting sent to each member of THE FACULTY. The Chair of the Faculty Senate will administer, record and report the vote within the period of time specified in the Faculty Senate bylaws for faculty-wide referendums. A vote of THE FACULTY requires a two-thirds majority of those casting a vote (with abstentions not counting as votes) to override a Faculty Senate action.

(2) THE FACULTY may officially oppose a University Presidential action following the procedure specified in Article IV, Section 2e(1). A vote of the faculty requires a two-thirds majority of those casting votes (with abstentions not counting as votes) to officially oppose an action of the University President. The Chair of the Faculty Senate will communicate the results of such a vote to all faculty and to the Idaho State Board of Education if a two-thirds margin is achieved.

f. Financial Support

Financial support for meetings of THE FACULTY will be provided by the Office of the Provost in negotiation with the Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Section 3: Faculty Referenda

An alternate means to initiate a vote of THE FACULTY is a petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of THE FACULTY. Such a petition must conform to procedures specified in the Faculty Senate bylaws.

Article V: The Faculty Senate

Section 1: Membership

a. Composition

(1) Academic Faculty; Voting Members

(a) Each college or division will be entitled to at least two Academic Faculty representatives to the Faculty Senate except the library, which will be entitled to at least one Academic Faculty representative. Any additional units identified in the Faculty Senate bylaws will receive at least one representative. Academic Faculty representatives will be elected by the Academic Faculty in the unit, college or division of the University.

(b) Senate representation will be determined on the ratio of one Senator per 25 Academic Faculty in the college or division of the University.

(c) Every January at the first meeting of the spring semester, the Provost will provide the Faculty Senate data on faculty membership. The Faculty Senate will review the apportionment of the faculty from each college, division, or unit as specified in the bylaws of the Faculty Senate.

(2) Nonvoting Members

(a) The president of ASISU or his or her designee.

(b) The President of the University or his or her designee.

(c) The dean of each unit, college, division, and the library.

b. Selection

Academic Faculty Senators will be elected by each college, division, or unit of the University.

c. Term of Office

Elected members normally will serve for three years. Initially, provision shall be made for rotating terms of office so that one third of the Senate seats will be vacated each year.

d. Responsibility

All members of the Senate are uninstructed representatives. Having sought the counsel and advice of their colleagues, Senate members will be free to exercise their own judgment on matters of decision and vote.

e. Restructuring

Newly created colleges and divisions of the University will be represented as provided in Article V, Section 1 a.(1-3). Implementation will be in accordance with the bylaws of the Faculty Senate.

Section 2: Authority and Functions of the Faculty Senate

a. Authority

The Faculty Senate will have the authority and responsibility to act on behalf of THE FACULTY. Actions of the Faculty Senate will be effective without approval of THE FACULTY, except that such actions will be subject to challenge, by THE FACULTY (as specified in Article IV, Section 2, Paragraph e.) or by the President of the University.

b. Functions

Within the framework established by the Idaho State Board of Education, the Faculty Senate will, as the representative body of THE FACULTY:

- (1) Recommend to the President and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs requirements for admission and for degrees.
- (2) Make recommendations to the President and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs regarding all proposals for new courses and curricula, changes in established curricula, and curricular policies involving relationships between colleges, divisions, or units.
- (3) Recommend to the President and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs criteria for academic rank, tenure, and professional welfare.
- (4) Provide for the review and mediation of disputes involving professional ethics and grievances.
- (5) Recommend to the President and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs policies and procedures governing the performance of research, scholarship and creative activities.
- (6) Maintain such committees and councils as are necessary for the implementation of Article III, Section 1, of this constitution.
- (7) Receive and consider reports from committees and councils and take appropriate action thereon.
- (8) Inform THE FACULTY of its actions.

Section 3: Organization of the Senate

a. Officers

- (1) The Senate shall elect annually from among its voting members a Chair and Vice Chair.

b. Meetings

(1) Regular and special meetings of the Faculty Senate will be held throughout the academic year at times specified in the bylaws.

(2) Regular and special meetings of the Faculty Senate are open.

(3) Non-Senate members may only address the Senate when called upon by the Faculty Senate presiding officer.

c. Rules

The Faculty Senate is empowered to make rules governing its own organization and procedure subject to the conditions of this Constitution and the following:

(1) A simple majority of voting members of the Senate members will constitute a quorum. If quorum is lost, the meeting will be immediately adjourned and the discussion will continue at the next regularly scheduled meeting or special session of the Faculty Senate.

(2) A digest of the Senate meeting minutes will be distributed to THE FACULTY without delay.

d. Agenda

At least three business days prior to any Senate meeting, the Chair of the Faculty Senate will have an agenda published and distributed to THE FACULTY. Any item submitted by at least ten percent (10%) of THE FACULTY through petition must be placed on the agenda for the next regular Senate meeting. Items not on the agenda of a given meeting may not be brought to formal vote at that meeting without unanimous consent of those present.

Article VI: Amendment

Section 1: Of the Constitution

Amendments may be proposed by either:

a. A two-thirds vote of the Senate present and voting, or

b. Twenty percent (20%) of THE FACULTY through initiative petition presented to the Chair of the Senate.

The proposed amendment to the constitution will be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Senate for open discussion, a written copy of the proposed amendment, including explanation and justification, will be distributed to each member of THE FACULTY, after which it will be submitted to a special meeting of THE FACULTY for discussion. An amendment thus submitted will become part of the constitution when approved by secret ballot by a two-thirds majority vote of THE FACULTY, in accordance with the Faculty Senate bylaws regarding university-wide referendums.

Section 2: Of the Bylaws

The bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, present and voting.

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