The above diagram illustrates the typical path of a proposal under Senate review. Any member of the campus community may submit a proposal to the Senate.
What is the University Senate?

The University Senate is a unicameral legislative body composed of roughly 165 peer-elected faculty, staff, and student Senators, University administrators, a Senate Committee structure, and the Senate Office. The primary function of the Senate is to advise the President on University policy matters and other issues affecting our community.

Shared Governance

The Senate convenes regularly throughout the academic year to discuss, debate, and vote on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to:

- Education
- Campus community
- Long range plans
- Budget
- Facilities
- Faculty/Staff/Student affairs

Much of the Senate’s work takes place within the 13 standing Senate committees. Each committee meets regularly during the academic year to research, review, and compose policies and proposals to be considered and voted on by the full Senate. The Senate Office coordinates and supports the activities of the Senate, and is based out of Marie Mount Hall.

University Senate Committees

- Academic Procedures & Standards
- Campus Affairs
- Committee on Committees
- Educational Affairs
- Elections, Representation, & Governance
- Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
- Executive Committee
- Faculty Affairs
- General Education Committee
- Programs, Curricula, & Courses
- Staff Affairs
- Student Affairs
- Student Conduct

In recent years, the Senate has advised the President on a variety of important University issues including:

- Arbitrary and Capricious Grading Policy
- Tobacco-Free Campus Proposal
- Prayer at Commencement
- University Strategic Plan

How can I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved in the University Senate. Any member of the campus community (faculty, staff, students, and administrators) may submit an idea or proposal for consideration by the Senate. Senator elections are held annually for faculty, staff, and students—run for a seat and be a voice for your consistency in important campus debates. Volunteer to serve on a Senate committee to help revise and craft University policy. Or, attend a Senate or Senate committee meetings to watch shared governance in action. Finally, stay up to date on the Senate’s activities by subscribing to our e-newsletter, “liking” us on Facebook, and following us on twitter.