

5 September 2025

Dear Members of the Board of Governors,

On behalf of the Faculty Senate, I would like to provide an update regarding some of the goals for Faculty Senate for the 2025-26 academic year. The Faculty Senate executive committee has identified three strategic priorities for the current academic year:

**1. Encouraging Broader Faculty Engagement**

The Faculty Senate is prioritizing increased faculty involvement in governance through greater participation in meetings, committees, and initiatives. The goal is to foster shared ownership and ensure broad representation in decision-making. However, limited awareness of the Senate's role, time constraints, and a perceived lack of influence have hindered engagement.

**2. Assessing and Reducing Bureaucratic Barriers**

Reducing administrative inefficiencies is another key focus. The Senate is working to identify bottlenecks in teaching, research, and service that impact faculty most often. A collaborative audit with university leadership is proposed to streamline workflows and allow faculty to focus on core responsibilities.

**3. Improving Communication Between Faculty Leadership and Faculty**

Improving transparency and feedback between faculty and leadership is essential. Many faculty members feel disconnected from Senate deliberations and lack access to timely updates or policy drafts. To close these gaps, the Senate plans to publish regular communications, simplify access to governance materials, and create formal feedback channels. These efforts aim to build trust and foster a more inclusive governance culture.

**Conclusion**

The Faculty Senate remains firmly committed to fostering and maintaining strong, collaborative relationships among the faculty, university administration, and the Board of Governors. We recognize that open dialogue, mutual respect, and shared purpose are essential to the success of our institution. As representatives of the faculty, we will continue to engage constructively with all stakeholders to support academic excellence, institutional transparency, and vitality of our university community.

The first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2025-26 academic year is scheduled for 8 September 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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