



OU FACULTY SENATE CHARTER CHANGES

OU faculty will have the opportunity to vote on revisions to the Faculty Senate Charter beginning April 28. The vote will take place over email through May 2. Only regular faculty may vote, and **at least 20% of OU faculty members must participate for the vote to be considered valid.** Revisions supported by the faculty will be submitted to the OU Board of Regents for final consideration and approval.

A sample ballot may be viewed at: ou.edu/facultysenate/charter

Overview of Proposed Revisions:

Many of the proposed changes to the OU Faculty Senate Charter are to update language to reflect current usage and practice. Other key proposed updates include:

- Moving procedural text from the charter to the bylaws.
- Adding a faculty mission statement and a preamble for the Faculty Senate to define our role in shared governance.
- Expanding the definition of faculty to include all full-time faculty, both regular and non-regular.
- Increasing the Senate size from 50 to 60 senators and allowing non-regular faculty to vote for and serve as senators.

To learn more about the proposed revisions, attend a town hall, email facsen@ou.edu, or speak with your senator.

Extending Representation in Shared Governance to Non-Regular Faculty

Why This Matters

Currently, non-regular faculty—Instructors, Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, and Researchers—lack representation in shared governance, despite comprising over one-third of the OU faculty. These educators and researchers play a critical role in advancing our institution's mission, yet they have no formal voice in shaping faculty-related policies and decisions. Every other major group on campus—faculty, staff, and students—has representative bodies that advocate for their interests.

What This Change WILL Do

- Give non-regular faculty representation in Faculty Senate, allowing their voices to be heard in discussions that impact their work and careers.
- Provide non-regular faculty the opportunity to serve in Faculty Senate, fostering greater engagement in shared governance.
- Allow non-regular faculty to participate in faculty committees, ensuring their perspectives help shape policies that affect the entire faculty body.

What This Change WILL NOT Do

- Alter departmental voting rights.
- Affect tenure, promotion, or hiring policies, unless already determined by departmental guidelines.

Why Now?

- Non-regular faculty are deeply impacted by Faculty Senate decisions. Many issues, such as workload policies and professional development, affect all faculty, yet non-regular faculty currently have no say in these discussions.
- OU Health Sciences has already made this change. As part of ONE OU, aligning our governance structures will create consistency across campuses and strengthen our collective faculty voice.
- The number of non-regular faculty is growing. With 655 full-time non-regular faculty already on campus – a number likely to increase – representation must evolve to reflect the current and future composition of our faculty body.

Town Halls

Faculty Senate officers will provide a brief overview of the proposed changes to the charter and answer questions during four upcoming virtual town halls. Submit your questions in advance via the registration link for the town hall you plan to attend. Registration links can be found by scanning the QR code.

- Tuesday, March 25 – 9–10 a.m.
- Friday, April 11 – 2–3 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 16 – 9–10 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 22 – 2–3 p.m.



Scan the QR code or visit
ou.edu/facultysenate/charter