

FACULTY STATUS COMMITTEE

Updated by-laws voted in: 27 April 2020

The Faculty Status Committee is an independent investigative committee comprising tenured and career-track faculty that reports and makes recommendations directly to the President. Throughout this document, “faculty” refers to both tenure-track and career-track faculty at Washington State University (WSU).

Composition of Committee:

1. Nine (9) tenured faculty with three (3)-year terms, and three (3) career-track faculty with three (3)-year terms, all of whom will attend full committee meetings. Exceptions to these numbers can be made based on current needs.
2. The terms are staggered so that there is continuity of committee membership. Each year, three (3) of the nine (9) tenure-track members will rotate off the committee while one (1) of the three (3) career-track members will rotate off the committee. Thus each year, three (3) tenure-track faculty and one (1) career-track faculty will be elected to rotate onto the committee.
3. Career-track faculty will not attend meetings when prohibited by relevant WSU personnel documentation.
4. Members are elected by the faculty by secret ballot according to procedures specified in the Faculty Manual.
5. The committee chair/co-chairs is/are tenured faculty, elected by all tenure-track and career-track members of the committee.

Reports to:

The Faculty Status Committee reports to the President. The committee may also make recommendations to the Faculty Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate.

Membership:

1. Tenure-track faculty must be tenured, hold the rank of at least Associate Professor, and have at least six (6) consecutive years of employment at WSU.
2. Career-track faculty must have at least six (6) consecutive years of employment at WSU, with a preferred rank of Associate Professor.
3. Members may not hold an administrative appointment that involves participation in tenure and/or promotion decisions.
4. Membership should provide broad representation across the colleges, libraries, and campuses.
5. Investigative case committees for tenure-track faculty will consist of at least three (3) tenured members, and investigative case committees for career-track faculty will consist of at least two (2) career-track members. Both types of committees will be chaired by a tenured committee member.

Functions of the Faculty Status Committee:

1. Reviews, mediates, and/or adjudicates disputes between individual faculty members and between individual faculty members and WSU administration.
2. Makes recommendations to the Faculty Affairs Committee and to the President concerning policies about faculty affairs which arise out of its conciliatory and judicial functions.
3. Calls special meetings of the faculty or any component thereof, giving reasonable notice, at which time the chair of the Committee shall preside.
4. Reviews any problem within its jurisdiction brought to it by any member of the faculty.
5. Makes periodic reports (at least annually) to the President concerning its operations.
6. Tenure-track case committees will oversee affairs related to tenure-track faculty and will report to the tenured faculty members. Career-track case committees will oversee affairs related to career-track faculty, will be chaired by tenured faculty, and will report to the full committee.

In addition to the functions enumerated above, the Faculty Status Committee has power to elect its own officers, fix dates of its meetings, make its own rules of procedure, designate other members of the faculty to assist in its work, and make reports and recommendations to the faculty and to the President.

Further information is provided at the Faculty Status Committee website:
<https://facsen.wsu.edu/faculty-status-committee/>.

Nominations:

During the last two (2) weeks of February, the Faculty Status Committee shall form an Elections sub-committee composed of at least two (2) members of the Faculty Status Committee and up to three (3) external faculty members designated by the Faculty Status Committee. By April 15, the Elections sub-committee will submit to the faculty a list of six (6) nominees for the three (3) tenure-track vacancies and two (2) nominees for the one (1) career-track vacancy. This committee of at least five (5) shall request nominations from the faculty through WSU wide communication channels at least two (2) weeks prior to the selection of candidates by the Elections sub-committee. If there are vacancies caused by death or resignation during the previous year, the Elections sub-committee will submit two (2) nominations for each vacancy.

If membership on the Faculty Status Committee decreases below seven (7) during any one (1) year, a special election will be held to fill vacancies. Nominations for special elections are made in the same way as described above. If vacancies occur during the summer, the Faculty Status Committee may appoint members to serve until October 1 of that year.

Election:

Election of new members to the Faculty Status Committee shall be by electronic ballot. This ballot is to be delivered to the faculty (academic, extension, and library) by April 15 for terms beginning August 16. All faculty vote for both tenure-track and career-track faculty candidates regardless of their own track. The ballot shall carry the names of six (6) tenured nominees and two (2) career-track nominees and shall provide an opportunity to enter the names of up to three

(3) eligible write-in candidates for each track. Faculty may vote for up to three (3) tenure-track nominees or eligible write-in candidates. The three (3) tenure-track nominees or eligible write-ins receiving the greatest number of votes are elected to three (3) year terms. Faculty may vote for one career-track nominee or eligible write-in. The career-track nominee receiving the greatest number of votes is elected to a three (3) year term. In the event that a vacancy occurs before the end of a member's regular three-year term, the nominee or eligible candidate receiving the next greatest number of votes in the election of that vacating member shall be eligible to serve immediately and will serve the remainder of the term.

Leave of Absence:

If a member of the Faculty Status Committee goes on leave for a period of four (4) months to one (1) year or for any reason is unable to participate in the work of the committee for a similar period of time, the committee is empowered to appoint a replacement for the period of absence. A member who anticipates a longer absence shall resign so that the vacancy may be filled at the annual election.