

Benefits of Faculty Senate Involvement

This document is an effort to identify some of the key benefits of becoming involved with Faculty Senate. We hope that it helps both generate interest among K-State faculty and professional staff and support among unit leaders and supervisors when their faculty and staff express interest.

Knowledge – Involvement leads to a better understanding of how the university operates.

Connections – Involvement facilitates networking with others on campus and getting to know really good people.

Adaptive Problem Solving – Involvement facilitates learning about different perspectives on campus and exposure to different ideas. For most, it is an eye-opening process that leads to greater knowledge about higher education leadership and administration.

Institutional Awareness – Being involved helps faculty and professional staff gain a better understanding of the bigger scheme of university life.

Resources and Opportunities – Engagement with Faculty Senate familiarizes faculty and professional staff with many of the resources available for your unit and colleagues.

Shared Governance – Participating in Faculty Senate gives members a more direct line of communication and familiarity with university leadership including our Provost, President, Presidential Cabinet leaders, and even the Kansas Board of Regents.

Leadership – Faculty Senators make important and often times difficult decisions. Senators have the opportunity to practice advocacy and leadership for faculty and professional staff. Such leadership opportunities are not always available within individual departments, but can be quite impactful at the Faculty Senate level.

Empowering and Engaging– For many, involvement in Faculty Senate is a key way to really make a difference for our institution.

Importantly, there are many opportunities for varying levels of involvement through Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate is organized by representatives from Caucuses largely associated with Colleges and Administrative Units. The leaders of Caucuses constitute the bulk of the Executive Committee, which sets the agenda for Faculty Senate meetings. The Leadership Council consists of the chairs of the five standing committees; the Secretary; and the current, incoming, and immediate past Presidents of Faculty Senate. Involvement at each of these levels is crucial to effective and impactful shared governance. We welcome your participation!