



The University Academic Council

The revised constitution (2008-09 AY) created an executive board, the University Academic Council (UAC), to guide and execute the work of the University Senate, represent the Senate in meetings with the president and other administrators, represent ASU in the Arizona Faculties Council, and carry on the work of the Senate when the Senate is not in session over the summer. Rather than select a single president of the Assembly and Senate, as in the days of the single campus, the revised constitution recognized that the contract homes of most Assembly members remain tied to a campus. Consequently, campus presidents are elected by Assembly members in a three-year sequence (president-elect, president, past president). These 12 individuals from the four campuses come together to form the Academic Council. The UAC selects its own chair from among the four presidents of the campuses. This elected individual is consider both the President of the University Senate and chair of the UAC. Professor Phil VanderMeer from the History department on the Tempe Campus was the initial University Senate President during academic year 2008-09.

The UAC chair convenes and runs the Council meetings, will usually chair the meetings of the Senate, and serves as the chief spokesperson for the Council. All Council members are actively involved in the work of the Council and the Senate. The UAC has general supervision of the affairs of the University Senate between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Senate, propose amendments to the constitution and bylaws, initiate and stimulate the study of matters of concern to the university, and perform such other duties as are specified in this constitution and the Senate bylaws. The UAC is subject to the orders of the Senate, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Senate. An example of "other duties" involves executing the actions of the Senate. The UAC also reports the actions of the Senate to the university president and provost, complete with narratives designed to inform the president of any special interests and concerns expressed in the Senate.

By providing for three members from each campus, elected by the Assembly members from that campus, the Council provides a year-round shared governance body to represent faculty and academic professionals in the work of the university. The Council plays a pivotal role in the effort to make the Assembly's shared governance structures more omni-present, nimble, efficient, and effective. Assembly members may contact any of the Council members to bring issues to the attention of the Council, the Senate, the university president and other administrators.

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