

Representation on Faculty Governance Bodies at Ohio Faculty Council Institutions

September 2015

Summary

In spring and summer of 2015, OFC representatives were asked to supply information about part-time (PT) and non-tenure track (NTT) faculty representation on their institution's faculty senate or equivalent governing body, as well as about other groups represented. These queries were prompted by contemplated changes in senate composition at Youngstown State University and Ohio University.

The majority of OFC institutions do not distinguish between FT tenure-track (TT) and NTT faculty for either voting in senate elections or in the senate offices that faculty may fill. Of the five exceptions, only one (Ohio State University) allots no seats to NTT faculty. By contrast, only three institutions have PT faculty representation, consisting of two seats at each of those institutions.¹ A few provide seats for retired faculty, who may or may not be voting members and cannot serve as officers.

Institutions vary with regard to whether they include non-faculty representatives as either voting or non-voting members. OFC institutions most frequently provide elected seats for representatives from the libraries (and may categorize FT professional library staff as "faculty"). Two include administrators as voting members, and three include voting student senators/members. Ohio State has a faculty governance body (the Faculty Council) which constitutes just over half of its University Senate, while administrators and students supply the rest of the larger body.

Finally, some OFC institutions elect the leadership of their faculty governing bodies from within the body and others hold elections among the faculty at large. Those that hold institution-wide elections for faculty leadership positions are noted below.

Member Institution Representation Practices

Bowling Green State University

The elected faculty membership of the Bowling Green Faculty Senate comprises 62 senators elected proportionally by the undergraduate colleges, plus one representative from the libraries for every 25 library faculty member (or fraction thereof), one retired faculty representative, and two PT faculty members. Both TT and NTT FT faculty may vote and stand for election to the seats not reserved to retired, library, or PT faculty. In addition to the faculty senators, ex officio members include the President, Vice President for Academic Administration, Vice President for Student Affairs, and 9 students representing various constituencies; the Board of Trustees may also appoint senators, and up to five more ex officio senators may be added. Both elected and ex

¹ In theory, Ohio University's two NTT seats may be filled by PT faculty members, because continuing, promotable NTT faculty members may be under contract for as little as 0.5 FTE. The category of faculty most closely resembling PT at other OFC institutions, called "Group III," has no Senate representation, however.

officio members of the Senate have full voting rights, although only elected members may serve on the senate standing committees or hold a senate office.

Central State University

All FT faculty at the rank of Instructor or higher (i.e., FT, bargaining-unit faculty) are voting members of the University Senate, as are college deans, librarians, the Library Director, the Provost, and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs (so long as they hold faculty rank). Non-voting members include the University President, his or her cabinet, the Registrar, and an elected student representative from each class. Senate leadership must be elected from among the voting members.

Cleveland State University

All FT faculty may vote and stand for seats on the Faculty Senate. Senators are elected by college: colleges elect one senator per 5 eligible faculty members up to the first 25 faculty members, with one additional senator per 25 faculty members in excess of those. The college of graduate studies elects two representatives. There is also a seat for the professional librarians. A number of non-faculty corresponding members may participate in Senate discussion without voting rights. These include up to ten administrators, two representatives of the professional staff organizations, two retired faculty representatives, and four students.

Kent State University

Senators are elected to represent academic units and as at-large representatives. Each academic unit is entitled to one senator for the first 10 faculty in the unit, and then one additional for each 50 faculty members beyond the first 10. Full-time NTT faculty constitute their own electoral unit, with representation awarded on the same basis. In addition, the TT faculty elect one at-large senator for each 100 TT faculty members at the university (rounding up or down to the next hundred). In AY 14-15, this allocation process resulted in 36 TT and 10 NTT senators. The 25 ex officio non-voting members include the university's executive leadership and deans.

Miami University

34 faculty senators are elected to the University Senate from representational units (primarily clusters of departments or individual campuses), with seats apportioned by faculty FTE. An additional 10 senators are elected by the faculty at large. All FT faculty are eligible to stand and vote for Senate seats. In addition to faculty, the University Senate includes the following voting members: the Provost; seven additional administrators or unclassified staff members appointed by the President; one Classified staff representative; one Unclassified staff representatives; and 15 elected student representatives representing various constituencies.

Northeast Ohio Medical University

Representatives to the NEOMED Faculty Council are elected by the FT or co-funded members of each department with five or more faculty members. (All current faculty members have professorial titles.) In addition, there are 4 seats for clinical faculty from the College of Medicine, 3 for clinical pharmacy faculty, one at-large faculty seat designated by University Council itself, and 3 student members (one from each college).

Ohio State University

The 70-member OSU Faculty Council are apportioned among the colleges, campuses, Division of Libraries, and Military Science (with Arts and Sciences subdivided into three constituencies); no constituency may elect more than 10% of senators. Only TT faculty members are eligible to vote or serve, with the exception of Clinical faculty from the College of Medicine. Council leadership is elected by the Council. The members of the Faculty Council also represent the faculty in the University Senate, which meets at least 7 times per year and incorporates the main Administration (executive leadership and deans) plus representatives from each of the student senates.

Ohio University

49 Faculty Senate seats are distributed among the academic colleges and regional campuses in proportion to TT faculty headcount, and only TT faculty are eligible to stand for or vote in college elections. Two at-large seats serve to represent NTT faculty members on continuing annual contracts. (OU does not primarily distinguish between PT and FT faculty, but rather between faculty hired by the academic year with benefits and indefinite annual renewal or longer contracts, and those hired by the semester without benefits or those hired under annual contracts with a maximum of 3-years' total employment.)

Shawnee State University

All FT faculty, both TT and NTT, may stand for and participate in Senate elections. Each academic department in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Professional Studies elects one senator; University College elects one senator. The College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Professional Studies, and the University College each also elect two at-large senators. Finally, the Executive Committee is separately elected by the faculty at large. NTT faculty members may not serve on the Executive Committee.

University of Akron

The majority of the Faculty Senate is made up of FT faculty members, elected by college, with one senator for each 15 FT faculty members; there is no distinction made between TT and NTT faculty. In addition, 2 seats are allotted to PT faculty, 2 seats to retired FT faculty, 3 seats to student representatives, and 1 seat to FT academic advisors. The retired senators may not serve on the Executive Committee or as committee chairs or vice chairs.

University of Cincinnati

Two senators are elected by the FT faculty of each college, plus 8 at-large senators by the FT university faculty as a whole. No distinction is made between TT and NTT faculty. In addition, PT faculty elect two representatives and emeriti one. The Senate chair, secretary, and two faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees are elected by the faculty at large, and serve (along with the university president and either a chair-elect or past Senate chair) as ex officio members of the Senate.

University of Toledo

All continuing FT faculty, including both TT and NTT, are eligible to vote and stand for Faculty Senate seats. The 64 seats are allocated among colleges and the Library proportionately to the FT faculty headcount of each unit, although each college has a minimum of 2 and maximum of 14 senators. The Provost serves as an ex officio, non-voting member.

Wright State University

All FT faculty, both TT and NTT, may stand and vote for seats on the Faculty Senate. Senators are elected by college or campus, with one senator allocated for each 30 faculty members (or fraction thereof). The Faculty President and Vice President are elected by the entire voting faculty of the University, and must be tenured (or, if they hold appointments in units that do not grant tenure, have equivalent service and qualifications).

Youngstown State University

Faculty seats (minimum 70) on the Academic Senate are apportioned among the colleges by faculty FTE, with each department represented by one senator and the rest of the college seats elected by the college at large. All FT faculty, both NTT and TT, may vote and stand for Senate seats. The Senate also includes 15 appointed administrators and 15 students selected by a combination of appointment and election. Faculty Administrators may stand for election as faculty.