

The full-time and part-time faculty employees, librarian employees, coaching employees, and counselor employee comprise the Faculty. Faculty at all 23 CSU campuses are represented by the California Faculty Association (CFA). CFA and the Board of Trustees of the CSU negotiate a Collective Bargaining Agreement governing compensation, evaluation, grievance procedures, etc.

The Faculty are represented on issues that fall outside the Collective Bargaining Agreement by an elected Faculty Senate. The governance of the Faculty is described by the Bylaws (last updated in 2006). Policy items originate from one of the Senate's nine Standing Committees. Draft policies are first presented at a meeting of the Senate for open discussion. Afterwards, the originating committee(s) in consultation with the Senate Executive Committee revises the draft and bring(s) it to the floor as a resolution at a later meeting. If passed, the policy is forwarded to the University President who either signs the policy, returns it with suggestions for revision, or rejects it.

The nine Standing Committees are organized by areas of responsibility. Each Standing Committee has a senior administrator serving as executive secretary and consults extensively with administrative colleagues throughout their operations. Some examples:

- All academic personnel policies are originated by a personnel committee (PP&R). Upon adoption by the Senate and signature of the President, these policies are included in Section 600 (Full time faculty) or Section 700 (Part time faculty). PP&R also approves the search process for academic and academic administrative positions, and makes recommendations concerning disputes and appeals in the retention, tenure, and promotion process.
- Curriculum and program proposals are originated by department/program curriculum committees and vetted by a college level committee. Items passed at the college level are then considered by either the undergraduate curriculum committee or the graduate level committee (occasionally both). Throughout the process there is consultation with departments whose interests may be affected by a proposal and with administrative colleagues. These committees are empowered to approve curriculum and program modifications without further Senate consultation. Both committees also originate policy proposals regarding curriculum and the conduct of teaching for inclusion in the University Catalog which, after consultation with the Senate Executive committee and other stakeholders are considered by the Senate.
- The Educational Resources Committee makes general policy recommendations in order to guide the allocation of all University resources that impact educational programs. The committee reviews and advises on current and proposed allocation of faculty positions; the allocation of and projected needs for space, support equipment and operating expense budgets; the allocation of resources for technology; the assignment of and projected needs for support staff; the recommendations of other faculty governance committees which have significant educational resource implications; and, at the request of an appropriate University committee or an Associate Dean, independently evaluate proposals for new programs with regard to their impact on the available educational resources of the University.
- The Educational Equity Committee makes recommendations affecting educational equity; reviews all existing University, College and departmental educational equity efforts; reviews all educational equity expenditures and allocations as necessary; and reviews proposals for new educational equity programs.

In addition, faculty at all 23 CSU campuses are represented at the system level by the Academic Senate of the CSUN (ASCSU). Larger campuses like CSUN have three statewide academic senators. The senior academic senator is a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and reports to the faculty senate at each meeting.