University Faculty Senate and Shared Governance at Penn State

New Faculty Orientation
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University Faculty Senate
Shared governance in higher education

- Structures and processes through which faculty, staff, students, administration and governing boards participate in decision making
- Modern form developed after WWII, 1960s
- Varies widely across higher educational institutions
- Reflects the broader structure of the institution
Chartered by Board of Trustees in 1921
Originally chaired by President, members administration
Shift to modern form started in 1965
Reorganization concluded in 1975
Board of Trustees is the corporate body of University with the overall responsibility
BoT delegates authority to the President, who then delegates authority etc
University Faculty Senate the representative body of the faculty
University Faculty Senate

- Has legislative authority on all matters pertaining to the educational interests
- Advisory and consultative body to the President on all matters that may affect the attainment of University’s educational objectives
- Represents all campuses and colleges except Penn College of Technology
- 200 faculty elected by full-time faculty in every unit
- Elected faculty officers from the body
- 20 administrative senators, 27 student senators
University Faculty Senate

- Large public meetings 6 times a year
- 15 standing committees, special committees
- Faculty Advisory Committee to the President
- Faculty Rights and Responsibilities
- Standing Joint Committee on Tenure
- University Promotion and Tenure Committee
- Roles on other administrative committees
- Board of Trustee committees membership
Thank you!

- Questions and comments
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