

## FAQs on Faculty Governance

1. What is the difference between the Executive Committee to the Senate (ECS) and the University Academic Senate (UAS)?  
*ECS is subgroup of UAS which takes a first look at the issues brought before the Senate and makes decisions about how to proceed. It may send issues to one of its standing committees most related to the issue for investigation, it may take up the issue itself, it may send the issue for UAS approval, or rarely ECS may decide to do nothing about it. UAS is the highest body of faculty governance and makes final recommendations to the administration on issues that affect our faculty as defined in our Faculty Handbook. Its agenda is set by ECS.*
2. How can I become a senator?  
*Senators are elected from the entire tenure-track faculty body. If you want to be a senator, run for it!*
3. How many faculty does each senator represent?  
*19-20*
4. Where can I find the agendas and minutes for ECS/UAS meetings?  
*On the faculty governance website, <http://www.gvsu.edu/facultygov>*
5. Can I attend ECS and UAS meetings even if I don't serve on them?  
*Yes, of course. ECS and UAS meetings are open to the GVSU academic community. You can find their schedule on the faculty governance web site, <http://www.gvsu.edu/facultygov>.*
6. My colleagues and I want to develop a new academic program. What is the procedure for this?  
*First, you have to write a prospectus describing your new program and its potential financial impact on the University. You will then submit your prospectus to the on-line curriculum system at <http://www.gvsu.edu/facultygov/online/>. From there the ECS Chair will receive it and bring it to the New Programs Council for a recommendation to the Provost about your proposed program. If the Council recommends support and the Provost agrees, you will be asked to write a full proposal for your program and submit that again online. From there it will go to the College Curriculum Committee and from there to ECS. ECS will refer your proposal to the University Curriculum (UCC) and Faculty Salary and Budget Committees (FSBC). If your proposal has graduate components, the Graduate Council will also participate in evaluating your proposal. These Committees will make recommendations to UAS who will make a final recommendation about your proposal to the Provost. She has the final say on your proposal. Read the Faculty Handbook, pages 39-40 for more details.*
7. How about program or course changes, do they require ECS/ UAS approval?  
*No.*
8. How many standing committees report to UAS and ECS, and what are they?  
*Nine. They are, in no particular order:  
Academic Policies and Standards Committee  
Faculty Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee  
Faculty Personnel Policies Committee  
Faculty Salary and Budget Committee*

*Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee  
General Education Committee  
Graduate Council  
University Assessment Committee  
University Curriculum Committee*

9. How do standing committees decide which issues to take up?

*The Faculty Handbook describes their general charges, and ECS has the power to charge them with more specific issues.*

10. Is the Faculty Handbook immutable?

*No. It is a living document. Based on input from faculty and from its standing committees, and its own deliberations, ECS/UAS can make recommendations to the administration for changes to language and general content in the Faculty Handbook. If the Provost approves these recommendations, and if the changes are requested for passages within chapters 1-3 of the Handbook, the Handbook language is changed. If, however, changes are recommended for passages in chapter 4 of the Handbook, otherwise known as the Administrative Manual, then first the Provost, then the Board of Trustees need to approve the requested changes.*