



## Governing Regulation, Part IV The University Senate

### Major Topics

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[Membership](#)

[Officers, Committees, and Councils of the University Senate](#)

[University Senate Functions](#)

### Introduction

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This Governing Regulation describes the composition, authority, and functions of the University Senate at the University of Kentucky.

### A. Membership

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The University Senate shall be composed of both elected and *ex officio* members.

The ninety-four (94) elected faculty shall be full-time faculty elected from and by the respective college faculties. The elected faculty representatives in the University Senate have the authority assigned to “the faculty of the University” under KRS 164.240 to recommend to the Board of Trustees the conferral of earned degrees from the University and the conditions for and award of honorary degrees. The University Senate membership, composed of both elected and *ex officio* members, is authorized to perform all other functions delegated by the Board of Trustees to the University Senate.

The University student body shall be represented by the student senators, one elected from and by the full-time student body of each college. The one elected emeritus faculty member shall be elected by and represent the University of Kentucky Association of Emeriti Faculty. The procedures for election of representatives to the University Senate and University Senate Council shall be prescribed in the *University Senate Rules*.

In even numbered academic years, the *ex officio* voting members of the University Senate shall be composed of the following: Provost, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, student member of the Board of Trustees, two (2) faculty members of the Board of Trustees, Dean of Libraries, and deans of the Colleges of Communications and Information Studies, Dentistry, Design, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, and Social Work. In odd numbered academic years, the *ex officio* voting members shall be the following: Provost, student member of the Board of Trustees, two (2) faculty members of the Board of Trustees, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Dean of the Graduate School, Associate Provost

for Undergraduate Education, and deans of the Colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Business and Economics, Fine Arts, Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and Pharmacy. The University Senate may recommend to the Board of Trustees changes to the above list of *ex officio* voting members and determines *ex officio* nonvoting membership, as necessary.

## B. Officers, Committees, and Councils of the University Senate

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The University Senate is authorized to develop *University Senate Rules* for the conduct of its functions, copies of these rules being furnished to the President and the Board of Trustees. It may perform its functions directly, through the Senate Council<sup>1</sup>, through standing or special committees which it may appoint or authorize for appointment, or through delegation of authority and responsibility to the faculties of the Graduate School, or the faculties of the colleges, schools, departments, centers and institutes. The University Senate Council shall appoint standing or special committees of the University Senate, responsible to the University Senate, unless the University Senate has authorized other methods of appointment.

The President is the Chair of the University Senate and shall be the presiding officer except as the President may delegate this function to the University Senate Council Chair. As its Chair, the President may be called upon by the University Senate to address or represent the University Senate or to transmit its recommendations. The President, as Chair of the University Senate, may establish and appoint academic committees to advise the President in this capacity.

The University Senate may establish University Senate committees that are responsible, in an advisory capacity, to the President or other administrative officer(s) or administrative unit(s). These committees are also responsible for reporting upon issues that bear upon the functions of the University Senate and for making recommendations for action. These University Senate advisory committees shall be appointed by the President, as the University Senate Chair, from nominations made by the University Senate Council.

A member of the University Faculty (not necessarily a member of the University Senate), appointed by the University Senate Council, shall serve as parliamentarian. The two (2) sergeants-at-arms, appointed by the University Senate Council, shall be members of the University Faculty and/or a staff employee. The University Senate shall hold regular monthly meetings during the academic year when classes are in session and, after adequate notice by its Secretary, special meetings on the call of the President or the University Senate Council or on the written request of ten (10) members.

Any University employee or student may attend a meeting of the University Senate as a visitor and request the privilege of the floor.

## C. University Senate Functions

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The University Senate is not assigned any management or administrative functions. The University Senate functions include the following:

1. Determine the broad academic policies of the University, including the similar academic policies that may be made necessary by governmental or accreditation agencies, and make rules to implement these policies.

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<sup>1</sup> Members and officers of the University Senate Council shall remain voting members of the University Senate until the end of their terms on the University Senate Council. They shall not be counted as a part of the quota of the educational unit that they have represented nor of the membership of the University Senate after the expiration of their elected University Senate memberships.

2. Upon the recommendation of the University Senate, the Board of Trustees shall make the final University decision on the establishment or closure of degree-granting academic programs. Other decisions on the academic status and content of academic programs shall be made by the University Senate, pursuant to procedures contained in the *University Senate Rules*.<sup>2</sup>
3. Make final decisions for the University on curricula, courses, certificates and diplomas offered at the University.
4. Adopt policies for the University academic calendar and establish the annual calendar upon recommendation by the University Registrar.
5. Recommend to the President and Provost on the establishment, alteration, abolition, and reporting relationships of educational units in the University.
6. Advise the President or the President's designated officer on the planning for physical facilities, personnel and other resources when these may affect the attainment of educational objectives of the University.
7. Advise the President or the President's designated officer, through appropriate committees, on criteria, policies and procedures for performance review, appointments, reappointments, promotions, granting of tenure, and benefits to faculty in the University.
8. Determine the conditions for admission and for degrees, other than honorary degrees, in the University, pursuant to KRS 164.240.
9. Recommend to the Board of Trustees all candidates that have been approved for degrees in the University, pursuant to KRS 164.240.
10. Address the President or, through the President, the Board of Trustees, regarding any University matter.

## References and Related Materials

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K164.240, Degrees granted by trustees

University Senate Rules

## Revision History

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6/14/2005, 3/27/2012

For questions, contact: [Office of Legal Counsel](#)

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<sup>2</sup> Except when the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requires final action by the Board of Trustees.