

What is the Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate?

The Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate is the collegiate Senate of the faculty of the four Colleges of Arts & Science at UH-Manoa. It represents the faculty of these colleges in all academic policy matters of concern either to the individual colleges or to the set of colleges as a whole.

How are you different from the UH-Manoa Faculty Senate?

The UHM Faculty Senate represents all the faculty on campus in campus-level matters. The A&S Faculty Senate represents just the faculty of our colleges in college-level matters.

How are senators elected?

There is no need for elections, as all faculty in the four colleges are senators, and all faculty can bring issues to the senate.

There is also an executive committee, the ASFSEC, consisting of two senators from each of colleges and one at-large member. Members of the ASFSEC are elected by their colleges as vacancies arise.

How often does the A&S Senate meet?

The full Senate does not have regular scheduled meetings, but meetings are called by the ASFSEC when deemed necessary. Meetings can also be called by a request of 10 or more A&S faculty members. These meetings can be of the full Senate or of appropriate subsets, for example all the faculty from one of the four colleges.

The ASFSEC meets approximately monthly during the academic year, more often when there is pressing business.

Does the A&S Senate consider resolutions?

Resolutions do come before the Senate; these are considered and voted on either at meetings of the full Senate or by email. More often business of the colleges is moved forward through our regular consultation between the ASFSEC and the collegiate deans, the VCAA, and other administration.

Shouldn't there instead be individual collegiate senates for the four colleges?

Perhaps. Arguments can be made for both forms of faculty governance. The current structure has the advantage that it avoids duplication between four colleges which

have very similar missions, and the additional numbers gives the body more leverage with the deans and other administrators. It also has the advantage of being in place now, and functioning well.

Recently some CNS faculty have articulated a need for a venue in which faculty from the different departments in the college can discuss concerns specific to CNS. To that end we are working to design a new standing subcommittee structure, meanwhile we have already put out a call for representatives for an ad-hoc committee of this form in the CNS, to give this idea a trial run.

Can't we have both?

The sense of the current ASFSEC is that the answer is "no;" they would be trying to occupy the same niche in the faculty governance ecosystem. There is also concern that the deans and other administrators with whom the ASFSEC regularly meets would not know which organization represents the college faculty, and might decide that the simplest route is to ignore both.

In any event, we are all stretched in our faculty duties as it is, most departments don't have the extra faculty to commit to serving on so many different governance organizations.

Why haven't I heard of you?

The A&S Faculty Senate has been operating in its current form for at least 30 years, but has not always been as visible as it could be. This year there is finally a web page:

<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/asfsec/>