

Portland State University Faculty Senate Motion

Ad Hoc Committee to Research the Definitions of Faculty, Program, and Department in the Faculty Constitution

Background, rationale, and preliminary discussions

The [Constitution of the Portland State University Faculty](#) lacks clarity regarding the definitions of “faculty,” “program,” and “department.” These definitions affect faculty members’ right to vote in departmental matters and participate in shared governance. In the interest of promoting greater inclusivity and precision, the Faculty Senate Steering Committee recommends creating a research committee to study how other universities approach this issue, gather information about how faculty would like to approach the issue at PSU, and propose further actions for Senate consideration.

Motion presented by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee

The Faculty Senate appoints an Ad Hoc Committee to Consider the Definitions of Faculty, Program, and Department in the Faculty Constitution.

This committee will:

- **Clarify priorities and principles** regarding criteria for inclusion.
- **Research** how other institutions define “faculty,” “department,” “program,” and other key terms.
- **Organize a survey and/ or listening sessions** with PSU faculty and administrators of various ranks.
- **Consider** implications of different definitions on participation in Faculty Senate and the Senate’s Constitutional Committees.
- **Consider** implications of different definitions on participation in departmental governance.
- **Research and present options**, with discussion of advantages and disadvantages associated with each, regarding possible revisions to terms and participation arrangements.
- **Present** a report on their findings to the Steering Committee by May 1, 2021 for presentation to the Senate in June 2021.

The Committee on Committees shall appoint 5 members from the faculty and 1 DEI advocate, and the Office of Academic Affairs shall appoint up to 3 consultants. PSU-AAUP shall appoint up to 2 consultants. Steering Committee, EPC, and PSU-FA shall each appoint 1 consultant.

Presented to the Senate on November 2, 2020

Approved/ Denied by the Senate on _____