

**Proposal for SECAC Affiliated Group  
SEC Association of Faculty Leaders (SECAFL)**

Introduction

Faculty senates play an important role in the shared governance of American universities. Senate leaders could benefit from learning from and sharing information with peers. The SEC Association of Faculty Leaders (SECAFL), affiliated with the SEC Academic Consortium, will fulfill the role of giving faculty senate chairs/presidents from the 12 SEC institutions an opportunity to learn from one another and join together for common purposes related to faculty governance.

Purpose

The purpose of SECAFL is to create a network of faculty senate officers from the Southeastern Conference who can share information about issues of concern to faculty senates and advocate on behalf of the role of faculty governance.

Potential Initiatives

The group's designs will evolve with each new group of faculty senate leaders. The initial projects will involve sharing information about how other senates operate as a point of comparison for "best practices." This could include discussions of what types of issue should be addressed by a faculty body, what type of institutional support is needed for a senate to work effectively and efficiently, and how best to structure committees and their work.

A likely initiative would be to discuss how senates can most effectively carry out their role within the "shared governance" of a university. Other possible initiatives or discussions could include what role a faculty senate should take during budget crises, how to effectively work with the institutional research office, what relationship senates should have with AAUP chapters, et cetera.

The group will convene at least once per year, rotating around the SEC universities. Christian Anderson, assistant professor of higher education at the University of South Carolina, will serve as the executive secretary for the group, maintaining records and facilitating communication for the group.

Group Goals and Objectives

The SECAFL seeks to:

1. Share information about resources and practices of faculty senates through regular meetings and electronic communication.
2. Create a voice for faculty concerns within the SECAC community by working with chief academic officers.
3. Provide a venue for collaboration on shared governance and other pertinent issues that will enhance the academic mission of their institutions.

Supporting Members from SEC Universities

The primary representative of each university for the group will be the current faculty senate chair/president or his/her designee. Other senate officers may also participate.

The charter members for 2009 are:

Alabama	Karen F. Steckol
Arkansas	Inza Fort
Auburn	Bob Locy
Florida	Frank Bova
Georgia	Bill Vencill
Kentucky	David Randall
Louisiana State	Kevin L. Cope
Mississippi	John Williamson
Mississippi State	David Nagel
South Carolina	Robert Best
Tennessee	J.A.M. "Toby" Boulet
Vanderbilt	Virginia Shepherd
Executive Secretary	Christian Anderson