

Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

The Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities is one of the most important committees at Penn State. To serve on this committee you must be nominated to the University Faculty Senate and elected by that body.

Role of the Committee

The Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities' primary role is to resolve disputes where faculty members assert substantial injustice resulting from a violation of academic freedom, procedural fairness, or professional ethics. When the committee receives a petition claiming injustice the committee decides if the claim has merit. If so, the committee works to evaluate if the allegations are justified. If after appropriate review the committee determines that they are justified, then the committee recommends a resolution to the Executive Vice President and Provost of the University.

Committee Structure and Terms of Service

1. The Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities has 12 members elected by the University Faculty Senate.
 - a. 8 faculty members
 - i. Balanced mix of NTL and TL faculty
 - ii. Balanced mix from UP and non-UP locations
 - b. 4 Deans and Chancellors – members of Academic Leadership Council
2. The Committee Chair will be elected by the Committee from among its elected faculty members. The term of office will be for one year, starting July 1.
3. The term of office for members and alternates will be three years commencing on July 1.
4. No member of this committee may serve concurrently on the Standing Joint Committee on Tenure and/or the University Promotion and Tenure Review Committee.

Eligibility

1. Any faculty member who has either earned or been hired with at least one level of promotion is eligible to serve on the committee as a regular or an alternate member.
2. All Deans and Chancellors.

Committee workload

1. The Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities meets all year round with the term beginning on July 1. The time commitment varies month to month, depending on the number of cases the committee receives. Typically, a member can expect to spend 2 to 4 hours per case for review of materials with 9 to 15 cases per year. In addition, sub-committees may spend additional time conducting interviews. Monthly meetings are usually two hours long.

2. For up to a year, a faculty member who runs for but is not elected to FR&R may be called upon as an alternate member. If a regular member resigns, the alternate member will be activated and serve out the remaining portion of the leaving member's three-year term. This presents a limited but additional obligation for candidates. However, instances of resignation from FR&R are quite rare. Alternate members who are not activated do not have to attend meetings (Except for orientation) or do any committee work.

For more information on current membership, relevant policies, and other details on the position, please go to the University Faculty Senate website:

<https://senate.psu.edu/senators/other-committees/faculty-rights-responsibilities/>