

Pittsburg State University Unclassified Professional Senate

Bylaws

Established April 2011

Amended March 6, 2013

Amended May 3, 2017

Amended November 1, 2017

Amended May 2, 2018

Amended February 19, 2020

Amended January 05, 2022

Amended January 10, 2024



Pittsburg State University

Unclassified Professional Senate Bylaws

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Pittsburg State University Unclassified Professional Senate.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Pittsburg State University Unclassified Professional Senate is to foster communication and collegiality among Unclassified Professional Personnel of the University; provide representation for Unclassified Professional Personnel and serve as a liaison to the University administration, Kansas Board of Regents and others regarding issues of concern; provide channels for the Unclassified Professional Personnel staff to participate in university governance; and formulate recommendations to the University President regarding policies and procedures that relate to the concerns of the Unclassified Professional Personnel at Pittsburg State University.

Article III – Organization

- A. The Unclassified Professional Senate represents Unclassified Professional Personnel of Pittsburg State University. Unclassified Professional Personnel are employees appointed to benefits-eligible positions. Any UPS employees eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate, or who are currently serving on the President's Cabinet or the Executive Vice President's Council are ineligible to serve as a UPS Senator. Those UPS employees who serve on the University Leadership Team, with the exception of the UPS President, are also ineligible to serve on the UPS Senate.
- B. To be eligible for election to the Unclassified Professional Senate, a person must be appointed to an Unclassified Professional position.
- C. Composition and Representation of the Unclassified Professional Senate:
 1. There shall be no more than 23 senators on the Unclassified Professional Senate.
 2. The number of senators shall be determined by the number of budgeted unclassified positions in the following representational groups:
 - a. Academic Affairs Cohort I
 - b. Academic Affairs Cohort II
 - c. President Cohort I

- d. President Cohort II
 - e. Advancement
 - f. Administration & Finance
 - g. Student Life
3. The number of Unclassified Professional Senate seats assigned to each representational group will be calculated by multiplying the total number of Unclassified Professional Senate seats (see C.1 above) by the ratio of the number of budgeted unclassified positions in that representational group to the total number of budgeted unclassified positions represented by the Unclassified Professional Senate.
 - a. The senate shall request a list of budgeted positions in each department from the office of Human Resource Services annually prior to the election of senators.
 - b. The Election Committee shall review the list and make changes to representational groups in consultation with the Executive Committee as needed.
 4. Should reorganization of the University result in a change in the number of Unclassified Professional Senate seats assigned to a particular representational group between elections, then the particular seats affected will be considered to represent the unclassified staff "at large".
- D. The officers of the Unclassified Professional Senate shall be president, past-president, president-elect, treasurer and secretary. Duties shall include the following:
1. President. The President shall preside over all Senate and Executive Committee meetings and shall act as the official representative of the Senate. The President shall have the right to authorize payment of expenditures.
 2. Past-President. The Past-President shall provide advice as needed at Senate and Executive Committee meetings.
 3. President-elect. The President-elect shall assume duties of the President in the event the President is absent or incapacitated.
 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer is responsible for Senate fiscal records, monetary disbursements as directed by the Executive Committee, and providing financial reports at full Senate meetings. The Treasurer will serve on the Professional Development Committee to process the professional development funds.
 5. Secretary. The Secretary shall:

- a. Prepare the minutes of the meetings of the Unclassified Professional Senate and make them available to all members of the Unclassified Professional Senate by posting on the Unclassified Professional Senate webpage no later than five business days following a regularly scheduled meeting of the Unclassified Professional Senate.
 - b. Distribute copies of the agenda for any upcoming meeting of the Unclassified Professional Senate, as well as minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee, by posting on the Unclassified Professional Senate webpage. Agendas shall be posted at least five business days in advance of any meeting of the Unclassified Professional Senate.
 - c. Make the agenda of each meeting of the Unclassified Professional Senate available to Unclassified Professional Personnel. Agendas shall be distributed at least five business days in advance of any meeting of the Unclassified Professional Senate.
 - d. Serve as chair of the Communication Committee.
- E. The officers shall be elected from the members of the Unclassified Professional Senate. Should the president-elect not have two years remaining on his/her term of eligibility, s/he will be extended up to two additional years to serve as a voting member of the Unclassified Professional Senate.
- F. In the event that a senate seat becomes vacant, the Executive Committee may appoint a representative, for the remainder of the vacated term from the cohort of the vacated seat. If no replacement is appointed, the seat may remain vacant until the next election or at the discretion of the Executive Committee, whichever comes first.
- G. In the event that a vacancy occurs among the Unclassified Professional Senate Officers before the expiration of that officer's term, the remaining officers may select a currently serving senator to fill that position, with the exception of the office of president. If the president is unable to finish his or her term, the president-elect shall fulfill those duties and the office of president-elect shall remain vacant until the next regular election.
- H. The term of office shall be from July 1 to June 30.
- I. Ex-officio Members
1. The following groups will be invited to have an ex-officio member to the senate.
 - a. Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate
 - b. Pittsburg State University Support Staff Senate
 - c. Pittsburg State University Student Senate

- d. Pittsburg State University President's Administration

Article IV – Elections

- A. The election committee, consisting of at least three members, shall be appointed by the president of the Unclassified Professional Senate at the first meeting of the new academic year.

- 1. Officer Elections

- a. A slate of officers will be nominated at the January meeting of the Unclassified Professional Senate with the electronic ballot to follow. If uncontested, no electronic election is needed. Elected officers will take office July 1.

- 2. Senator Elections

- a. Members of the Unclassified Professional Senate shall be elected to serve for a term of two years. They may not serve for more than two elected terms consecutively. Completing an unexpired term of another Unclassified Professional Senate member would not exclude the unclassified staff member from being elected to a second consecutive term.
- b. During March of each year, the following actions shall take place to fill the positions up for election.
 - i. Each representational group will have representation on the Unclassified Professional Senate as calculated in Article III C.3.
 - ii. If a representational group does not have persons willing to serve on the Senate, then persons may serve in at large positions from other representational groups.
- c. In the first two weeks of April, the electorate shall be provided with a ballot listing those Unclassified Professional Senate members not already elected to the Unclassified Professional Senate who consent to the listing for the purpose of electing representatives. The election shall be by electronic secret ballot.
 - i. If a tie occurs during the General Election, the Executive Committee will determine who will be the Senator to represent the open cohort.
 - ii. Each Senator will take office at the first meeting of the Unclassified Professional Senate held after July 1.

Article V – Committees

A. Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the president, past-president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer of the Unclassified Professional Senate. Each cohort should be represented on the Executive Committee with at least one UPS Senator. If not, the unrepresented cohort shall be appointed by the President.
2. The following duties shall be the specific responsibility of the Executive Committee:
 - a. It shall recommend Unclassified Professional Senate members for appointment to subcommittees and other all-university committees.
 - b. It shall serve as the advisory group of the Unclassified Professional Senate when called upon by an officer of the administration. It shall refer to the appropriate committee any question of policy on which advice is sought and shall report in its minutes any recommendation on policy.
 - c. It shall cause matters approved by the Unclassified Professional Senate to be brought to the attention of the appropriate administrative officer for action, and shall report to the Unclassified Professional Senate the action taken.
 - d. It shall take such emergency action as it finds necessary, such action to be presented at the next regular meeting of the Unclassified Professional Senate.
 - e. It shall refer to the appropriate committee such matters as are approved by the Unclassified Professional Senate for study.
 - f. It shall prepare the agenda for meetings of the Unclassified Professional Senate.
 - g. It shall ensure that nominations and elections are carried out as specified in the bylaws.

B. Bylaws Committee

1. The bylaws committee shall be appointed by the president of the Unclassified Professional Senate at the first meeting of the new academic year consisting of at least two members.
2. The following duties shall be the specific responsibility of the bylaws committee:

- a. Conduct an annual review of the bylaws and propose changes and/or updates as needed.
- b. Review specified items at the request of the Executive Committee or an elected senator.
- c. Present changes to the bylaws to the Senate for ratification. Bylaws changes will be adopted by the full Senate after no fewer than two readings.

C. Election Committee

1. The election committee, consisting of at least three members, shall be appointed by the president of the Unclassified Professional Senate at the first meeting of the new academic year.
2. In order to comply with Article IV of the bylaws, the following duties shall be the specific responsibility of the election committee.

a. Officer Elections

- i. Prepare an anonymous electronic ballot available to all current Unclassified Professional Senate members with nominations for President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary as received following the January Senate meeting. If office races are uncontested, no electronic election is needed.
- ii. Determine the results of the voting and forward the results to the Unclassified Professional Senate President, who will verify they are willing to serve in the elected office.
- iii. The President will present the slate of elected Unclassified Professional Senate Officers to the Senate at the February meeting for acceptance.

b. Senator Elections

- i. Determine a list of unclassified staff members eligible for election to the Senate effective March 1.
- ii. Create an anonymous electronic ballot to be made available to all Unclassified Professional Personnel in the first two weeks of April for the purpose of this election.
- iii. Determine the results of the voting and forward the results to the Unclassified Professional Senate President, who will approach each nominated staff member to verify they are willing to serve as an elected senator.

- iv. Proposal of the slate of nominated staff members will be conducted by the Unclassified Professional Senate President to the Senate at the May meeting for acceptance.

D. Professional Development Committee

1. The professional development committee shall be appointed by the president of the Unclassified Professional Senate at the first meeting of the new academic year consisting of at least two members.
2. The following duties shall be the specific responsibility of the professional development committee.
 - a. Review applications to receive Professional Development Scholarship Funds.
 - b. Propose allocations of the Professional Development Scholarship Fund to the Senate for approval.
 - c. Maintain a cumulative list of Professional Development Scholarships awarded. The list shall include: recipient name, amount and date received, purpose of received funds, and office/unit and division at time of award.
 - d. Explore other professional development opportunities for Unclassified Professional Personnel.

E. Communication Committee

1. The communication committee shall be appointed by the president of the Unclassified Professional Senate at the first meeting of the new academic year consisting of at least two members. This committee shall be chaired by the Secretary.
2. The following duties shall be the specific responsibility of the communication committee:
 - a. Maintain means of communicating with Unclassified Professional Personnel through the Unclassified Professional Senate webpage.
 - b. Promote activities and special events sponsored by the Unclassified Professional Senate.

F. Other committees to be determined by the Senate.

ARTICLE VI - Meetings

- A. The Unclassified Professional Senate shall meet a minimum of nine (9) times annually. Special meetings may be called by the president of the Unclassified

Professional Senate, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Executive Committee. Notification of each regular monthly meeting shall be made via the Unclassified Professional Senate website at least fifteen calendar days before each meeting.

- B. Potential agenda items and supporting information shall be submitted to the Executive Committee prior to its scheduled meeting. Items may be placed on the agenda by the Executive Committee, by the written request of the President of the University, or of any Unclassified Professional Senate member, or by petition signed by at least ten members of the Unclassified Professional Personnel. The agenda shall be distributed to the UPS website allowing members of Unclassified Professional Personnel at least five business days in advance of each meeting.
- C. All meetings of the Unclassified Professional Senate shall be open to members of the Unclassified Professional Personnel who may be granted floor privileges by majority vote of the Unclassified Professional Senate.
- D. Minutes of the meetings of the Unclassified Professional Senate shall be made available to members of the Unclassified Professional Personnel and administration on the Unclassified Professional Senate website.
- E. The President shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.
- F. A quorum of the Unclassified Professional Senate is required to approve or disapprove any action item on the agenda. A quorum is defined as 50 percent plus one of the eligible voting members.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Unclassified Professional Senate by a two-thirds majority of those voting, provided the agenda has included the proposed amendment(s) and was available to the members of the Unclassified Professional Personnel for five business days before the first reading. Such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Unclassified Professional Senate and upon approval by the President of the University.

ARTICLE VIII - Professional expectations

As elected representatives of the Unclassified Professional Personnel at Pittsburg State University, members of the Unclassified Professional Senate have a number of obligations. Those include, but are not limited to, regular attendance at Unclassified Professional Senate meetings. Should circumstances prevent an individual senator from attending the scheduled meetings, it is recommended that they discuss their situation with the Executive Committee to consider options to provide proper representation for their constituency.