4. Educational Policy Governance

The educational objectives and responsibilities of Washington State University are based upon specific requirements and enabling provisions of state and federal statues, and by action of the board of regents, as stipulated in the Faculty Manual. The Faculty Senate, serving as the legislative body of the faculty in all matters requiring faculty action or approval of curricular and educational policies of Washington state university, makes recommendations to the president and the Board of Regents.

The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC), the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC), and the Professional Health Sciences Committee (PHSC) assist the senate in its review and appraisal of all academic matters including:

1. Standards of admission
2. Curricula and courses to be offered and the amount of credit for each course
3. Standards of scholarship
4. Requirements for graduation
5. The academic calendar

With the dissolution in 2012 of the state of Washington’s higher education coordinating board, which previously approved proposals to initiate, modify, consolidate or terminate programs at the public four-year institutions, the Faculty Senate leadership and the Office of the Provost collaborated to update the procedures for these major changes. They are collected in the degree changes manual maintained by the provost’s office.

Any member or group of members of the faculty, or other interested person, may submit proposals for changes in the Academic Regulations to the Faculty Senate office for consideration by the academic affairs committee. These changes may pertain to the university in general—enrollment, registration—rather than to the curriculum of a specific unit.

Changes in academic policy, unless otherwise stated, become effective the fall semester subsequent to their adoption by the Faculty Senate. (Senate, 3/9/72)

EPPM 1996; rev. 2012-18 (degree changes)