GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

Shared governance at USM is accomplished through a number of avenues, including the Senates, the bargaining units, and other bodies.

USM supports five Senates, representing faculty, professional staff, classified staff, Graduate Student Senate, Portland/Gorham students and Lewiston-Auburn Students respectively. The Faculty Senate meets monthly from September through May. According to the Faculty Senate By-Laws, faculty in each school, college and independent degree program not otherwise represented are represented by one senator for each ten members or major fraction thereof, except that each school or college is represented by at least two senators. Five faculty members are elected at large, with no more than three from any school, college, or independent degree program. Part-time faculty members elect two representatives to the Faculty Senate with full participation rights.

According to the University of Southern Maine Governance Constitution, “…the Faculty Senate shall be the academic community’s primary advisory body to the president or, as appropriate, the chief academic officer. The Senate shall be responsible for academic policy recommendations applying to the University as a whole, and may make recommendations on any matter of concern to the faculty not reserved to other bodies by this constitution.”

Full time USM faculty members (tenure track, tenured and fixed length appointments) are represented by the Associated Faculties of the University of Maine System (AFUM), an affiliate of the Maine Education Association (MEA) and the National Education Association (NEA), and are legally required by contract either to join AFUM or contribute an amount approximately equal to dues to a scholarship fund or a representation fee. AFUM negotiates with System representatives on such issues as faculty salaries, benefits, grievance procedures, and working conditions, actively participating in implementation of each contract. AFUM members enjoy all contract and noncontract benefits of membership in MEA and NEA.