Faculty Senate Composition at UNC Campuses
Professor Mattox of FSU conducted a survey of Faculty/Senate Chairs for all UNC campuses on 9/11/08.

He asked the following questions:
1. Are chairs allowed to be faculty senators on your campus?
2. Are deans, associate deans, or assistant deans allowed to be faculty senators on your campus?
3. What is the role of your Chancellor in your Senate?
4. What is the role of your Provost in your Senate?

Here are responses received prior to 10/4/08.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Colleagues:
The North Carolina A & T State University Handbook states: “Individuals with administrative appointments (including department chairs, directors, assistant/associate deans, and deans are ineligible to serve as senators or alternates.”
The chancellor, provost/vice chancellor for academic affairs are ex-officio members. [The Chancellor or Provost may attend 1-2 meetings a year. If so, they would make comments and leave].
Copies of minutes and actions taken by the Faculty Senate shall be deposited in the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and reserve section of the library. [This is stated, but has not been practiced in recent memory].

QUESTION
The question raised at NC &T was whether or not administrators could serve on the Faculty Assembly; (that includes: chairs, deans, assistant/associate deans.) The issue came up because we currently have an administrator (asst. dean) serving on the Faculty Assembly. Last year, two Faculty Assembly delegates (two chair persons) held administrative positions.

Thank you,
Linda Florence Callahan, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate President
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

WCU
1. Chairs (as in Dept. Heads) may serve on the Senate in a regular capacity. In fact, relatively few choose to run, but they may.

2. Deans, Associate or Assistant Deans may not serve as Senators.

3. The Chancellor frequently attends the first portion of the Senate meetings, presents comments, answers questions, etc., then (almost always) leaves. I do know that, even when he attended the full meeting with greater regularity, he did not vote.

4. The Provost (as the Chancellor’s designee) does attend all meetings of the Senate (or sends one of his senior assistants) and is a full member. In practice, I do not believe that he has exercised his right to vote with any frequency.

To try to clarify, our documents make the Chancellor, or his designee (typically the Provost), a full member of the Senate. In practice, while this individual participates in discussion, etc., I don’t know of any case where I can remember them actually voting, although he/she may.

Richard S. Beam
Chair of the Faculty
Western Carolina University
NCCU

Department Chairs and Deans are not allowed to be Senators but are encouraged to attend Senate meetings. The Provost gives an update at each Senate meeting for all academic matters. The Chancellor by the “Code” CAN CHAIR the Faculty Senate. However, your Chancellor gives a University update at each Senate and encourage all administrator to attend Senate meetings. The administrator normally leave after addressing questions for the faculty. But the Chancellor can stay for the entire meeting.

George P. Wilson, Sr.
North Carolina Central University

FSU

1. The precedent is that chairs are not allowed to be faculty senators, although our governance documents do not currently address this.

2. Our governance documents specify only that senators are to be elected by their departments, eliminating only full time deans. The precedent until this year is that deans at all levels are not allowed to be faculty senators. In September, the vice-chair of our senate (and a former chair of the FA Governance Committee) was appointed to a ¾-time position as assistant dean, and elected to remain VC of the senate.

3. Our governance documents specify that our Chancellor is a regular member of our Senate (and also that he/she may convene and/or lead the senate at will). In practice, our Chancellors have either not participated in our senate, or have taken on an ex-officio role.

4. Our governance documents specify that our Provost is a regular member of our Senate and the executive committee of our senate. In practice, our Provosts have taken on an ex-officio role.

Senate Chair John Mattox
10/4/08

At NC State the following is in our bylaws:

1. Are chairs allowed to be faculty senators on your campus?

Faculty Senators may be any member of the general voting faculty with rank no higher than Department Head. Department Heads, however are eligible to serve as senators.

2. Are deans, associate deans, or assistant deans allowed to be faculty senators on your campus?

No.

3. What is the role of your Chancellor in your Senate?

Our Chancellor has no formal role in our Senate, though he may call for an run a meeting of the Senate. I am not aware of this ever being done. He generally addresses the Senate once each semester. He also is formally responsible for the General Faculty Meeting, though though in practice this is generally run by the Chair of the Faculty.

4. What is the role of your Provost in your Senate?

The Provost is an ex-officio member of the Senate as well as an XO member of our Executive Committee.

The subsequent question as to representation on the Faculty Assembly, I don't believe we have any limitation other than the person be a member of the General Faculty. We have had associate deans serve in the past.
UNCG

(1) Elected Members. Members of the General Faculty holding the rank of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor and who are members or associate members of the Graduate Faculty, and professional librarians, are eligible for election to the Senate.

(6) The nonvoting members of the Faculty Senate shall consist of the Provost, the immediate past Chair of the Senate, all Vice Chancellors, the Dean of the Graduate School, the Associate Provost for Research, a representative from the Deans Council, the head of the Faculty Assembly delegation, the Chair of the Staff Council or the Chair’s designee, two graduate students appointed by the President of the University Graduate Student Association and two undergraduate students appointed by the President of the Student Government.

More info:

Dept chairs are often on Senate as are Associate and Assistant Deans. In fact, at least 2 ADs have been Senate Chair, including myself. Deans are not but as you see, they have a rep and other administrators are non-voting members of Senate.

Our Chancellor and Provost speak at almost every Senate meeting and entertain questions. In addition, they meet monthly with Senate leadership.

Kathy Crowe – former senate chair UNCG

ASU

Our current Handbook only limits membership on the faculty senate in this way

“Faculty Senate shall consist of one member from each academic department, school, the Library, and five at large representatives. Any unit listed above may choose not to fill its senate seat, in which case the seat will remain empty for that academic year.”

And taken in conjunction with separate language

“All members of the faculty, excluding emeriti faculty, adjunct faculty, and part-time faculty teaching less than six (6) hours per semester, have the right to hold faculty offices and to vote in faculty meetings and faculty elections and in departmental and college committees on which they serve except as noted in Article II, Section 3.”

So in regards to your questions:

Are chairs allowed to be faculty senators on your campus? Are deans, associate deans, or assistant deans allowed to be faculty senators on your campus?

They would be allowed to serve but none currently serve. Their home department would have to elect them to be their representative.

What is the role of your Chancellor in your Senate? The Chancellor addresses the Senate twice a year and a total of 4 Chancellor’s advisory sessions are held between senators and the Chancellor each year. He does not attend the meetings and usually leaves after his address. He is not specified as a member of the Senate. All visitors are allowed to attend the monthly meetings so he could come if he so desired.
What is the role of your Provost in your Senate? The Provost or his representative serves as an ex-officio member of the Senate and attends each meeting to give updates from academic affairs and other items on campus. The Provost is the liaison to the Chancellor on FS matters.

We have been looking at the issue of how to handle the potential of administrators serving on the Senate and how we could define what commitment to administration might preclude that service but have not come up with any definitive answers at this point.

Dr. Michael B. Ramey  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
Chair of the Faculty Senate  
Appalachian State University

UNCA

Are chairs allowed to be faculty senators on your campus?
Yes. As long as person is a full-time employee with academic rank, whose primary obligation is teaching, (s)he is eligible to be on Senate. (Exception, librarians are also eligible.) It is quite common that departmental chairs are senators.

Are deans, associate deans, or assistant deans allowed to be faculty senators on your campus?
No. Deans are primarily administrators.

What is the role of your Chancellor in your Senate?
The Chancellor is an Ex-officio member of the senate, and she is frequently present during meetings.

What is the role of your Provost in your Senate?
The Provost is also an Ex-officio member, and she is usually present at senate meetings.

Lothar Dohse,  
2008/9 chair of faculty senate (UNCA)

UNC-CH

Prof. Templeton asked me to reply to your inquiry.

The UNC-Chapel Hill Faculty Code provides that the chancellor is an ex officio voting member of the Faculty Council and has the right to preside over its meetings. Neither the provost nor any other officer of administration holds ex officio membership. The Code further provides that all members of the Voting Faculty are eligible for election to the Council from the electoral division in which their department of faculty rank is located. Thus, deans, department chairs and other officers of administration who hold faculty appointments enjoy the same voting and office-holding privileges as their faculty colleagues. Members of our Faculty Executive Committee, Chancellor’s Advisory Committee, and Faculty Assembly Delegation are ex officio voting members of the Faculty Council. It is not unusual for deans or department chairs to serve on these committees, which are elected by the faculty at large. Consequently, we do in fact have sitting department chairs and perhaps a dean or two on our Council from time to time.

On the other hand, I do not recall an instance in which a department chair or dean was nominated for one of the 70+ Council seats allocated to the electoral divisions. We use a system in which all nominations are put forward by a Faculty Nominating Committee. It would be unusual for the committee to nominate a sitting dean or department chair for a Council seat.

The chancellor and provost both attend all of our Faculty Council meetings unless they’re out of town (which is relatively rare). The chancellor calls the meeting to order, delivers prepared remarks, and invites questions from the floor. After this, the chancellor asks the chair of the faculty to preside over the remainder of the meeting. The provost then delivers prepared remarks and invites questions. Agendas of our Council meetings are prepared by an Agenda Committee chaired by the Chair of the Faculty. Prior to Chancellor Moeser’s tenure, the chancellor attended these meetings. Now, the executive associate provost attends.
So, to summarize, our chancellor and provost attend each meeting of the Faculty Council and the Office of the Provost participates in setting the Council’s agenda. We value these contacts because it ensures that our two chief administrative officers are aware of the Council’s proceedings. That makes it rather difficult for them to ignore the Council or to plead ignorance of its concerns!

Joseph S. Ferrell  
Secretary of the Faculty  
UNC-CH

WSSU  
In response to the questions you have asked us, I am forwarding the WSSU faculty constitution.  
Be well,  
Subash