

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
FACULTY SENATE



The John Knoblock
Faculty Senate Office

Ashe Administration Building, #325
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

facsen@miami.edu
fs.miami.edu
Ph: 305-284-3721
Fax: 305-284-5515

Fall 2024

Dear Colleagues:

As we begin a new academic year, I am delighted to welcome you back to the U. Our University has made considerable strides forward in recent years and look towards an even more promising future. Recent challenges in higher education have highlighted the essential role that shared governance plays in the continuing health of our university.

Your individual role in the governance process is specified within the *Faculty Manual*, which may be found [here](#), and which also incorporates the *Faculty Handbook*. These documents set forth your rights and obligations and are a crucial part of your contract with the University.

Active engagement, your voice, and your wisdom are essential to the ongoing work of the Faculty Senate. The Senate is the legislative body through which the faculty shares in institutional governance. In this role, Senate members must approve changes to the *Faculty Manual*, enact other vital legislation, and concur in the establishment of new schools, departments, centers, institutes, programs, degrees, majors, minors, and concentrations. Through your Faculty Senate, and its standing committees, faculty participate in such matters as the establishment of academic policies, the standards for faculty promotion and compensation, University budgets, and the review of chairs, deans, and the Provost.

Senate committees are important opportunities for service and engagement. They are strongly committed to ensuring that all constituents of our community are treated with respect and dignity in an environment in which equity prevails. Thus, several Senate committees also participate in the adjudication process on issues related to rank, salary, and conditions of employment; tenure decisions; and allegations of unprofessional conduct. Please consider volunteering for this crucial work.

The faculty within each school or college elects its own senators for terms of three years. In addition to me, the current officers are Scotney Evans (First Vice Chair, from the School of Education and Human Development), and Albert Varon (Second Vice Chair, from the Miller School of Medicine).

Our Senate culture is one that actively embraces diversity in all its various forms, including diversity of opinions. We encourage you to raise issues you feel are important through your school/college Senators and relevant committees. On the Senate web site (fs.miami.edu) you will also find the calendar of Senate meetings as well as the list of Senators from your school/college, including the two meetings hosted by the President throughout the year. These meetings are an excellent opportunity for faculty to learn more about the strategic issues our university is facing, and to ask questions.

Finally, if you have questions or need any assistance, please contact the Senate Office at (305) 284-3721 or at facsen@miami.edu.

Again, welcome to the start of a new academic year. It is an honor to be a member of the faculty at the University of Miami and to serve you in the role of Senate Chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "JoNel Newman".

JoNel Newman
Chair, Faculty Senate
JN/mtt