



Richard L. Williamson
Chair

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Dear Colleagues,

To those who are joining our faculty, welcome! To the rest of you, welcome back! I hope your summer was both relaxing and productive.

I'm writing to encourage you to become involved with the work of the Faculty Senate. I believe that as you learn more about the Senate and its purpose at UM, you will recognize the value of becoming an active participant.

The Senate is a legislative body through which the faculty shares in institutional governance. The Faculty Senate must approve changes in the *Faculty Manual* and other legislation, and concur in the establishment of new schools, departments, centers, and degrees. Through the Senate and its committees, the faculty participates in such matters as the establishment of academic policies, the determination of faculty compensation and University budgets, and the review of chairs, deans, and the Provost. Faculty committees make it possible for faculty members to bring grievances relating to rank, salary, and conditions of employment, or to appeal adverse tenure decisions.

The first Faculty Senate meeting of this academic year is Wednesday, August 24. Senate meetings are open to all faculty members, and I encourage you to attend.

But why might you *want* to attend Senate meetings? The answer is simple: the actions of the Senate affect nearly all aspects of your life at UM. It is important that we hear your voice, and that you learn first-hand the actions of your representatives as they discuss and act on matters that influence many dimensions of faculty and academic life here at UM. Many colleagues have told us there is an important side benefit: it gives you an opportunity to meet faculty across other disciplines in the University.

The dates and location of Senate meetings and the list of your senators are posted on the Senate website (www.miami.edu/FacultySenate). Five to seven days before each meeting, the agenda and related materials will also be posted on the site.

We have a confidential listserv for all full-time faculty members and a limited number of senior administrators to share news and to discuss matters of general interest and importance to the University. I encourage you to join the more than 600 faculty members who have opted-in to our listserv by sending your email request to FacultyListAdministrator@miami.edu from your University e-mail address.

I wish you well as we begin a new year, and I hope to see you at the Senate. If you have any questions, please contact the Senate office, your Senators, either of the other Senate Officers (1st Vice Chair, Rene Sacasas and 2nd Vice Chair, Richard Lee) or me.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard L. Williamson'.

Richard L. Williamson
Chair of the Faculty Senate
and Professor of Law

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