

Guidelines for committee members

The following guidelines are for members of UFV governance bodies and their standing committees but also may be useful for members of any operational committee or task force.

Each committee is doing important work on behalf of the university. Committees involve a number of people and a great deal of valuable time. Active involvement of every participant is important to ensuring the committee is effective and that the time involved is put to good use.

Make a commitment

- Make the committee a priority if you are going to be a member.
- Ensure you understand the committee's mandate and terms of reference.
- Commit to attend meetings regularly and to take the time needed to prepare and participate in the work of the committee.

Preparation

- Ensure you submit agenda items and exhibits within established deadlines. Refer to the process for making submissions to Senate and the Senate Governance committees at ufv.ca/senate/procedures--guidelines/.
- Go over the agenda and materials before each meeting.
- Note questions or concerns, research information you might need, and/or talk to your colleagues prior to the meeting, as needed.
- Become familiar with Robert's Rules (*link to cheat sheet*). Members of Senate standing committees also should be familiar with the Rules for the Conduct of Business on Senate standing committees.

Participation

- Arrive on time and plan to stay for the whole meeting. If you must leave early or miss a meeting, let the chair know in advance. Be aware of the effect of non-attendance on quorum.
- Ask questions or make comments in turn. Be brief and make your point; don't hold forth, repeat yourself, or otherwise waste time.
- Do your part to move through the agenda by moving or seconding motions.
- Help make good decisions by voting on issues. Remember that all committee members are expected to make decisions in the interest of UFV as a whole, not in the interest of a particular area.
- Honour your commitments. Note action items assigned to you. Try to complete tasks before the next meeting so matters can be concluded in a timely fashion.

Meeting etiquette

- Turn off your phone or set it to vibrate. Take any calls outside the room.
- Be respectful of others' points of view. Challenge positions, not people. Don't interrupt or belittle others, even if you disagree.
- Avoid side conversations and activities such as reading or writing emails which are disrespectful and distracting to the chair and other participants.