

University of Nevada, Reno
Faculty Senate
Mentor Program

It is expected that new faculty will receive mentoring at the department level- especially with regard to the department and unit expectations for role statements, evaluations, merit, promotion, and tenure (if applicable). It may be the department chair who is responsible for providing guidance to new faculty, or a peer mentor might be assigned. If it hasn't already been discussed, we recommend that you ask your chair about the department's practices.

The Faculty Senate Mentor Program offers new faculty an opportunity to consult with an established faculty member from another unit who has an expertise in or knowledge of the area that the new faculty member wants guidance, for instance, writing grant proposals or advising graduate students. We hope that it also provides an incentive for the faculty to "get out of the department" and find out what's happening in other parts of the campus. The program is mostly informal, but two senate-scheduled meetings are required.

The senate office will schedule a first meeting of the new faculty member and mentor over lunch. At this meeting, the new faculty member should make clear the area(s) in which s/he would like guidance and to what extent, and it should be determined whether the two will meet on a regular basis. The senate office will schedule a second lunch meeting the next semester as a follow up. It is expected that the new faculty member will contact the mentor anytime s/he need assistance, and likewise, the mentor should be in touch periodically to inquire about how things are progressing.

The new faculty member and the mentor will determine the parameters of their mentoring relationship. That is, they should be in contact at least until the new faculty member feels s/he has established a solid foundation for attaining success. We hope they will become friends, but whether they get together social and after hours is up to them.

Mentors are assigned on a strictly volunteer basis. The senate office makes a concerted effort to assign mentors who have established remarkable careers at UNR and have some knowledge about university policies and procedures. It is important that both the new faculty member and the mentor are comfortable with the mentoring relationship. If not, the senate office should be notified immediately so that a new mentor can be assigned.

If you are interested in being assigned a mentor from outside your department and unit, please complete a "mentor request" form and send it to the Faculty Senate, mail stop327, fax x4078, Mackay Science room 300.