

**Bylaws of the
Central District
IFAS/Extension
University of Florida
As Approved: April 29, 2010**

Preamble

The shared goals of the faculty and administration of the Central District of UF/IFAS Extension are to attain excellence in extension and service, and to attain state and national recognition for these programs. These goals can best be achieved with a governance structure from the District level to the University level that fosters collegiality, collaboration, mutual responsibility, accountability, and transparency.

Article I – Governance of the Central District

These Bylaws establish the general principles by which the Central District shall be governed. These Bylaws are governed by and are subordinate to the Constitutions of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and the University and the policies and directives of the University of Florida's Board of Trustees and the Florida Board of Governors. Operating within the context of these Bylaws, the governance of the Central District shall be shared between the administration and the faculty.

Article II – The Faculty

Section 1 – Faculty Membership

The faculty of the District shall consist of individuals in University of Florida faculty positions. Faculty are defined by the University of Florida Constitution and Senate Bylaws and includes the various ranks (Agent I, II, III, and IV) of County Extension Director, Extension Agent, Regional Specialized Agent, Multi-County Agent, Program Agent and Courtesy Agent.

Section 2 – Faculty Rights

Faculty have the right to know the expectations of their job assignment and how they will be evaluated.

Faculty have the right to assemble without limit to discuss issues of concern.

Faculty have the right to open academic discourse without fear of retribution.

Section 3 – Faculty Responsibilities

Faculty are responsible for planning, conducting and evaluating extension educational programs and service in a competent and professional manner. Faculty are responsible for contributing to the governance of the District, IFAS, the University, and their professional associations. Faculty are responsible for contributing to the operations of the unit, including building, infrastructure, social, public relations, and outreach functions.

Section 4—Director Responsibilities

The District is headed by the Director (District Extension Director) appointed by the Dean for Extension in accordance with the University Constitution. The Director serves as chief executive and administrative officer of the unit and provides financial planning and policy, and supervises routine operations of the unit including faculty evaluations. The Director is responsible to the Dean for Extension. The Director is expected to operate the unit in the spirit of shared governance and seek faculty input, consider it, and provide feedback and rationale about final decisions.

Article III –Committees

Committee's will be formed and dissolved to address unit needs as appropriate.

Article IV – Faculty Meetings

The faculty meeting is the primary means of fostering communication among all faculty within the unit. Faculty meetings should be held at least twice annually and as needed by the Director, or by request of any faculty member. Faculty and administration have the right to place items on the agenda for discussion by contacting the Director in a timely fashion. The agenda should be distributed at least one week before the faculty meeting. When appropriate, UF Senators, members of the IFAS Faculty Assembly and other IFAS governing bodies from the unit should email to all faculty short summaries of critical items of relevance being discussed before those bodies and placed in the unit faculty meeting agenda before each faculty meeting so that dialogue can be initiated on these items.

Voting shall be restricted to unit (Central District) faculty.

Article V – Ratification and Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws shall become effective upon their ratification by the faculty of the unit with a two-thirds majority vote of all unit faculty, concurrence of the Director, and approval of the Extension Dean.

Section 2. Proposals for amendments to these Bylaws may be made to the Director or Assembly Representative by any member of the faculty.

Section 3. Changes in these Bylaws shall be made by a two-thirds majority vote of all unit faculty.