

SHARED GOVERNANCE

Since its founding, the AAUP has been ensuring meaningful faculty participation in institutional governance.

Shared governance, according to the Association's *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*, refers to the responsibility shared among the different components of the institution—governing boards, administrations, and faculties—for its governance, and the specifies areas of primary responsibility for each component.

According to AAUP policy:

The role of the governing board is to ensure that the institution stays true to its mission, to play a major role in ensuring that the institution has the financial resources it needs to operate successfully, to possess final decision-making authority, and to entrust the conduct of administration to the administrative officers.

The role of the president is to be the chief executive officer of the institution, to ensure that the operation of the institution conforms to the policies set forth by the governing board and to sound academic practice, to provide institutional leadership, to make sure there is effective communication between components of the institution, and to represent the institution to its many publics.

The role of the faculty is to have primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process. The responsibility for faculty status includes appointments, reappointments, decisions not to reappoint, promotions, the granting of tenure, and dismissal.

Why should the faculty voice be authoritative in the academic area?

- Faculty are distinctly qualified to exercise decision-making authority in their areas of expertise.
- The faculty's "judgment is central to general educational policy."
- Scholars in a particular field or activity "have the chief competence for judging the work of their colleagues."

Learn more at www.aaup.org/shared-governance.