

Shared Governance at Indiana Wesleyan University

The long-considered principles of shared governance of colleges and universities were formalized in a statement issued jointly in 1966 by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB).

Optimal governance of the university is realized through consistent communication and cooperation among three key constituencies, the governing board, the president and provost (administration), and the faculty. Each of these brings particular perspective to any given issue and prudent decision making and course setting are promoted when all three voices are consistently engaged. The 1966 statement notes four areas where the sharing of voices is particularly important: strategic planning, physical resources, budget, and the selection of the president. In the paragraphs that follow, we will note the particular responsibilities of each of the three constituencies and outline the structures that have been established at IWU to promote optimal governance.

The IWU Board has particular responsibility for the identity of the IWU community, the mission of the institution, and for the historical continuity of institutional service to the public good. Our relationship to The Wesleyan Church, and more importantly to Jesus Christ, is central to our identity, of course, and shapes both our mission and our service. The Board bears ultimate responsibility for the welfare and mission of the institution and has final authority in all matters. Individual Board members have no authority, only the Board acting as a whole, and individual Board members should refrain from exerting undue influence on the working of the institution outside of the regular Board governing processes. The Board communicates its will through policies that shape and direct the purposes and functioning of the institution. The Board appoints the president, in consultation with other constituencies including the faculty, and delegates to the president the authority to administer the day-to-day operations of the institution.

The president serves as the executive officer of the Board and as the leader of the institution. This unique calling includes accomplishing the will of the Board in the life of the institution, supporting the educational calling of the faculty and representing their needs and concerns to the Board, but also leading both groups into the future as the chief visionary and planning officer of the institution. The president is the face of the institution and the primary voice of the institution into the community.

The faculty bears primary responsibility for the academic program of the university, for matters of curriculum and instruction, scholarship and research, and the wellbeing and formation of students, although other professionals contribute to these outcomes as well. The faculty determines the requirements and the curricula for the various degrees and establishes the standards of qualification for instructors. With a vision for the wellbeing of students and for the academic excellence of the institution, the faculty speaks into the budgeting and resource allocation process.

When the voices of these three constituencies are consistently engaged together in conversation about the welfare and future of the institution, optimal institutional governance is made possible. IWU facilitates this conversation through the following structures. The Board meets on a regular basis and is actively engaged in directing the course of the institution. The president is a central presence at Board meetings but faculty representatives also participate. The Board has a committee structure that allows it to listen to and speak into particular aspects of institutional life and the Academic Affairs Committee gives particular attention to the faculty voice and the academic quality and wellbeing of the institution.

The president engages the university community including the faculty through direct communication and through governance bodies such as the Executive Council, the University Cabinet, and the University Academic Leadership Council. The primary body of faculty governance is the University Faculty Senate, through which the faculty fulfills its responsibility to ensure the integrity and quality of our academic program. Through these structures, and through personal relationship and informal conversation, the Board, the administration, and the faculty share the governance of Indiana Wesleyan University and together assure its ministry to generations to come.

Details of Governance Responsibilities

- **University Mission, Goals, and Strategic Plan** (Primary Authority: President, Board)
- **Curriculum** (Primary Authority: Faculty)
 - Courses
 - General Education
 - Minors
 - Majors
 - Degree Programs
- **Academic Policy** (Primary Authority: Faculty)
 - Admissions, Graduation, Other Academic Policies
 - Attendance, Grading, Grade Appeal, Grievance, Drop-Add, Repeat policies
 - Honors Policies
 - Honorary Degrees
- **Academic Structures** (Primary Authority for Overall Structure: Provost, President, Board w/Strong Consultative Input from Faculty; Primary Authority for Faculty Committees: Faculty)
 - Committees, Councils
 - Departments, Divisions
 - Schools, Colleges, Centers, Institutes
- **Handbooks, Policy Documents** (Primary Authority: Shared Depending on Content)
 - Faculty Handbooks
 - Academic Policy Manuals
 - Catalogs
 - Other Policy Statements
- **Academic Personnel** (Primary Authority: President based on Faculty Systems and Recommendations)
 - Faculty hiring, contracts, rank promotion, review
 - Selection, review, and retention of academic administrators
- **Budget** (Primary Authority: President, Administration)
 - Tuition Policy
 - Advancement and Fund Raising
 - Faculty and State Compensation and Benefits
- **Intercollegiate Athletics** (Primary Authority: Administration)
- **Student Development and Discipline** (Primary Authority: Administration)