

SD 21-30

SHARED GOVERNANCE

FOR DISCUSSION - 3/21/22

Educational Policy Committee

University Resources Policy Committee

Alice Pawley, apawley@purdue.edu



Shared governance at Purdue

- Civics literacy curricular overreach by BOT
 - PFW, PNW Senates unanimously endorse PWL SD 20-60
 - PDF cited SD 16-26 which adopts AAUP Statement on Government as basis for discussions about shared governance.
- Shared governance taskforce, initiated by a faculty member but with support from BOT and therefore Office of Provost
 - SD 21-14 as amended cited AAUP statement on government in response – passed in Jan 2022
- Current document SD 21-30 establishes a more permanent foundation adopting AAUP Statement on Government as basis for discussions about shared governance in the Senate.

Proposal

- The University Senate adopts the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) “Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities” [2] as the **authoritative statement** on shared governance, and the starting reference for all conversations about shared governance at Purdue-West Lafayette.
- The University Senate requests that Purdue administration and Board of Trustees meet with comprehensive Senate leadership (including standing committee chairs) to better understand this statement with the goal of joint acceptance.
- FAC is voting on a modified version:
 - This portion of the rationale is cut due to concerns that it impinges on the president’s authority:

“The Statement articulates areas of faculty primacy, and notes that “the governing board and president should, [... in] matters where the faculty has primary responsibility, concur with the faculty judgment except in rare instances and for compelling reasons which should be stated in detail.””
 - **“Authoritative statement”** (in yellow above) is changed to “working document” due to concerns over the implication of “authoritative.”

Why is this necessary?

- Campus conversations (including amongst faculty) about shared governance seem to be all over the map, with continued disagreement about what shared governance **is**.
- SD 21-14 (amended) drew on the Statement on Government, but specific to discussion of the shared governance taskforce.
- AAUP's statement is long-standing (since 1966), widely accepted, including by ACE and AGB (of which Purdue is a member), and disciplinarily neutral.
 - Statement is useful – specific, flexible, pragmatic
 - Statement is the foundation of extensive subsequent reports on state of shared governance across the county, over time, to support our benchmarking
 - Statement is part of the foundation for the AAUP Redbook, which documents a wealth of other policy recommendations for improved university functioning.
 - Statement is consistent with the current structure of University Code A4.05 which has never been rescinded, and of the Senate bylaws.

*What will passing this document *do*?*

- Serves as the voice of the faculty – to others and to ourselves.
- Such documents only do work when we take them up to do work.
 - So if this passes, we would need to ask for a meeting with the BOT and administration to talk about shared governance. Not just expect it to happen.
- Recent examples at Purdue using the Statement on Government to advocate for improved shared governance:
 - SD 20-60 on civics literacy curricular and graduation requirements
 - SD 21-30 asking for revised policy declaring an academic emergency (as per AAUP report after Hurricane Katrina)
 - Discussions on where faculty were involved in budget decisions regarding budget cuts in CLA to the Department of English, or the School of Interdisciplinary Studies;
 - Discussions about improved shared governance at the College level – Education, Engineering;
 - Discussions with VP Bertoline (Purdue Online) how online graduate programs can be approved and offered without explicit consent of the faculty who would teach them (and only relying on the head and dean), and without curricular oversight by faculty with technical expertise in the area.

Summary

- Faculty and the Senate can and should draw on statements about shared governance generated outside of Purdue to strengthen shared governance at Purdue
- AAUP's Statement on Government is useful, well-established, and already commended to ACE, AGB
- PFW Senate has already established its foundation using AAUP's Statement on Government.
- Given our current struggles around shared governance, we would do well to do the same.

- Please send questions, concerns, revisions to Alice Pawley, apawley@purdue.edu.