

Senate Document 21-14

Attempt at Dissolution of the Purdue University Senate

(a) The Provost's motivation and goals in sponsoring the "task force" website.

As explained to PNW Professor David Nalbone of the Indiana AAUP in correspondence with Provost Jay Akridge this summer:

*"Professor Deb Nichols, then Chair of the University Senate, presented the idea for a task force to explore shared governance at the April 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. The Trustees heard the concerns and ideas expressed and indicated they would be open to entertaining a proposal for a more effective structure after further study by the task force. Professor Nichols approached the Provost's office with a request to have a presence on our website. **While it is not a Provost initiative, [Provost Akridge] concluded it was a reasonable accommodation to allow the faculty to have a central repository for their information-sharing. [Provost Akridge's] office has no other involvement with the activities of the task force.**" (emphasis added)*

In short:

"This is an initiative started by the faculty; it was organized by past Senate leadership in response to faculty concerns about the effectiveness of the University Senate."

(b) The level of access the "task force" has to the Board of Trustees.

There have been no presentations to the Board of Trustees on this topic since Professor Nichols' presentation in April 2021, as noted above. As a general principle, the Board may invite official communications from faculty on its own initiative at any time (Article VI, Section 4 of the Bylaws of The Trustees of Purdue University). This would certainly apply to any Immediate Past Senate Chair working with faculty and other campus stakeholder groups on an initiative launched during her tenure as chair.

(c) The means by which the Board of Trustees can move towards dissolution of the Senate.

Consistent with the Trustee's statutory authority, the Board has acted by resolution over the years to designate the University Senate as the legislative body of the faculty. The Board always retains the power to rescind or modify its prior resolutions, including the one adopted in 1964 that laid the foundation for the current structure.

University Senate History

- Founded ~60 years ago.
- Senate is the legislative body of the faculty (W.L & Regional Campuses)
- Shall have the general power and responsibility to adopt policies, regulations, and procedures intended to achieve the educational objectives of P.U. and the general welfare of those involved in these educational processes

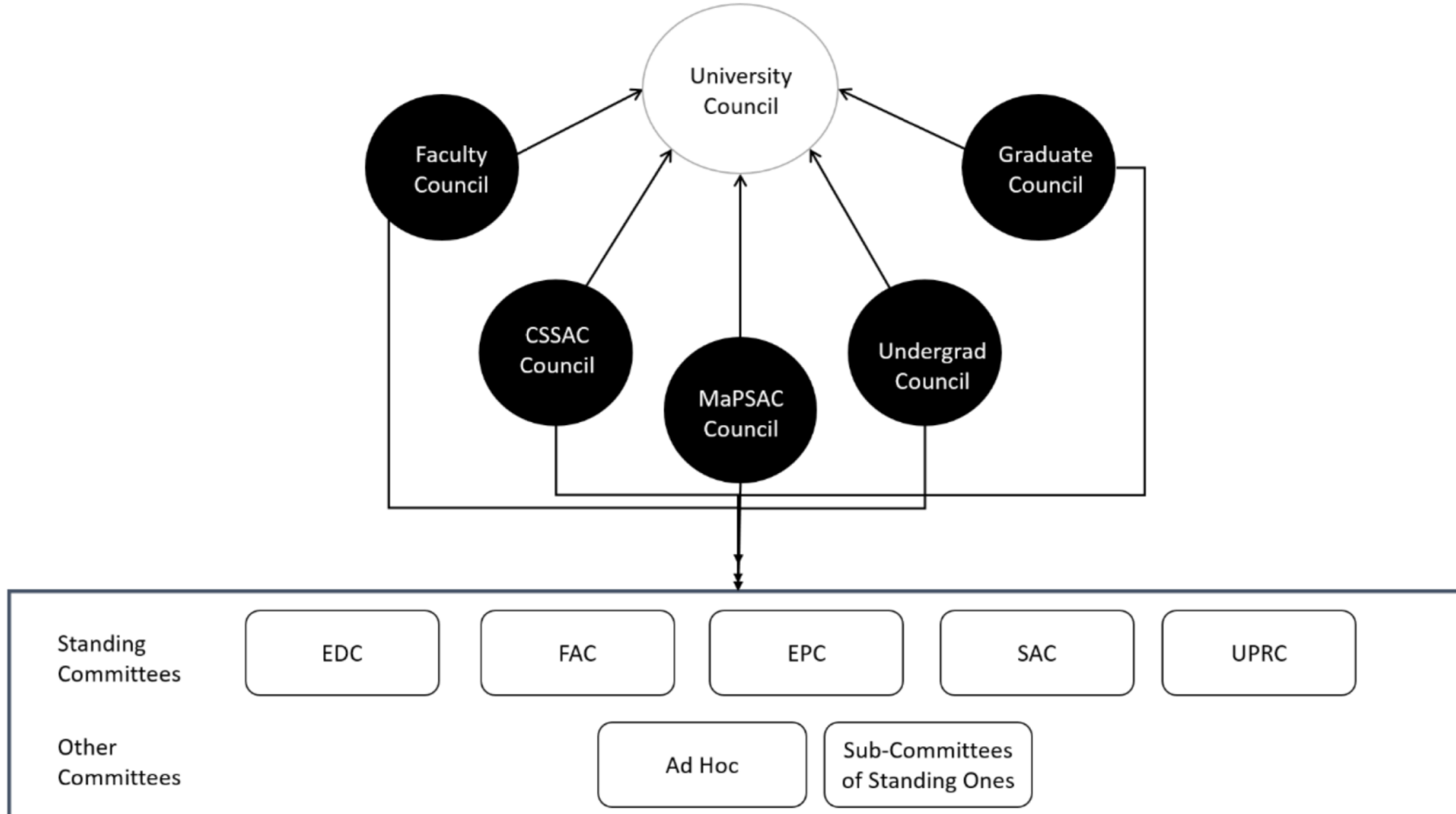
Shared Governance

In its simplest form, “shared governance” is shared decision-making based on the principles of partnership, equity, accountability, and ownership at the point of service.

AAUP Statement: Shared Governance

- “Shared governance refers to the joint responsibility of faculty, administrations, and governing boards to govern colleges and universities. Differences in the weight of each group's voice on a particular issue should be determined by the extent of its responsibility for and expertise on that issue.
- 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 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. The faculty should also have a role in decision-making outside of their immediate areas of primary responsibility, including long-term planning, budgeting, and the selection, evaluation and retention of administrators.
- Faculty have special training and knowledge that make them distinctly qualified to exercise decision-making authority in their areas of expertise.

Proposed Shared Governance



Shared Governance

governing boards, senior administration, faculty, staff and students contribute to decision-making related to policy, procedure, and practice.

Current Members:

Deborah Nichols, Shared Governance Task Force Chair, Human Development and Family Studies

Stacey Baisden, Former MaPSAC Chair, Polytechnic Institute

Colleen Brady, Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication

Angela Dodd, Vice President of Purdue Black Alumni Association

Sara Mellady, CSSAC Chair, Biological Sciences

Madelina E. Nuñez, PGSG President, Interdisciplinary Studies

Brock Turner, CSSAC Vice Chair, Procurement Services

Faculty

Faculty

Update: A Multitude of names, but that does not translate into support. Faculty represents <20%.

Creation of "Professional" Political Class

Meaningfully incentivize shared governance participation.

- *Provide university resources (e.g., course release, meaningful inclusion in faculty tenure and promotion criteria and evaluation, stipend, support for professional development opportunities)*
- *Such an incentive program recognizes, values, and normalizes service to the university rather than treating it as a necessary evil to be endured.*
- *In fact, evidence suggests that shared governance is most effective when it is comprised of the best faculty, staff, and students at an institution. These are people who opt into these positions rather than the myriad of other activities they could be doing*

Senate Document 21-14

Because the faculty are the point of service for both the educational and research goals of the University, and because the Senate represents the faculty and has the general power and responsibility to adopt policies, regulations, and procedures intended to achieve the educational objectives and the general welfare of those involved in these educational processes.

(1) The Senate disavows the efforts of a “task force” to dissolve the Senate.

(2) Further, the Provost’s sponsorship of the “task force” website will end.

(3) The Faculty Affairs Committee will meet with the members of the “task force” to evaluate its motivations and make recommendations to the Senate of possible reforms to aid the faculty in its mission within the University.