

Policy Manual

Issues Policy

Issues Policy 05 (IS-05): Governance of Post-Secondary Education Institutions

Adopted by: Board of Directors

Adopted on: March 22, 2011

Amended by: Board of Directors

Amended on: September 09, 2014

Summary:

If post-secondary education institutions are to fulfil their public responsibilities for the creation and transmission of knowledge, the governance of these institutions must provide for meaningful and efficacious participation of academic as well as non-academic communities and for an institutional autonomy that is balanced by transparency and public oversight.

Policy:

- I. The Union supports:
 - a. Institutional Boards of Governors:
 - i. With authority for administrative and financial matters;
 - ii. Containing a representative sample of community members including:
 1. No less than one quarter voting representation of students;
 2. No less than one quarter voting representation of academic staff;
 3. No less than one quarter voting representation of non-academic staff;
 4. No more than one quarter voting representation of broader community members or alumni;
 5. The University President, Vice Presidents, and Provost as strictly non-voting, ex officio members;
 - iii. Whose membership is determined:
 1. In the case of student representatives, through nomination and election by their peers conducted by or with oversight by a recognized students' union or association;
 2. In the case of academic staff, through nomination and election by their peers conducted by or with oversight by a recognized faculty union or association;
 3. In the case of non-academic staff, through nomination and election by their peers conducted by or with oversight by a recognized labour union or association;
 4. In the case of community members or alumni, through nomination and election by the campus community with oversight by a recognized students' union or association, a recognized faculty union or association, and a recognized labour union or association;
 - iv. Whose subcommittees are open to all Board members;
 - v. Whose meetings and records are open to the general public and media, with limited provisions for in camera sessions;
 - b. Institutional Senates:

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- i. With authority for academic matters and an advisory role to a Board of Governors regarding administrative and financial matters;
 - ii. Containing a representative sample of academic community members including:
 - 1. No less than one quarter voting representation of students;
 - 2. No less than one half voting representation of non-administrative academic staff;
 - 3. No more than one quarter voting representation of administrative academic staff (i.e. Deans) as ex officio members;
 - 4. The University President, Vice President Academic, and Provost as strictly non-voting, ex officio members;
 - iii. Whose membership is determined:
 - 1. In the case of student representatives, through nomination and election by their peers conducted by or with oversight by a recognized students' union or association;
 - 2. In the case of non-administrative academic staff, through nomination and election by their peers conducted by or with oversight by a recognized faculty union or association;
 - iv. Whose subcommittees are open to all Senators;
 - v. Whose meetings and records are open to the general public and media, with limited provisions for in camera sessions;
- c. Institutional Academic Divisional Councils:
- i. With authority for academic matters limited in scope to their particular Faculty, School, or Division and subject to decisions of Senates;
 - ii. Containing a voting majority of non-administrative academic staff;
 - iii. Whose membership is extended to:
 - 1. All non-administrative academic staff employed in the particular Faculty, School, or Division;
 - 2. Student representatives from the particular Faculty, School, or Division determined through nomination and election by their peers and conducted by or with oversight by a recognized students' union or association;
 - 3. Administrative staff and Deans as strictly non-voting, and ex officio members;
 - iv. Whose subcommittees are open to all members of the Academic Divisional Council;
 - v. Whose meetings and records are open to the general public and media, with limited provisions for in camera sessions;
- d. The procedures and rules for Boards of Governors and Senates being set out in the provincial legislation constituting the institution;
- e. The rules for Academic Divisional Councils being set out in the Bylaws of Senates;
- f. The right of students' unions to participate in institutional decision making processes;
- II. The Union opposes:
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- a. The use of confidentiality agreements, academic penalties, or any other means to unduly restrict the ability of student representatives to speak to their peers or other members of the community regarding matters before the institutional governance body on which they serve;
- b. The misuse of conflict of interest provisions to unduly limit the full participation of student representatives on institutional governance bodies;
- c. The ineligibility of any student to sit on an institutional governance body on the basis of full or part-time status, domestic or international status, program of study, financial status, or the exercise of social, cultural, civil, or political rights;
- d. Any restriction, active or passive, on access to meetings of institutional governance bodies.