Faculty Senates 2013: Challenges & Opportunities

Thursday, April 25, 2013
2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

Overview of Presentation
- Historical Origins of Faculty Governance
- Contemporary Variations in Forms of Faculty Involvement in Institutional Governance
- Traits of Effective Senates

Panelist
Larry Gerber
- Professor Emeritus of History and Chair, AAUP Committee on College & Univ. Governance
- Auburn Univ. & American Association of Univ. Professors

Welcome to Today's PaperClip Communications Webinar
Overview of Presentation

- Historical Origins of Faculty Governance
- Contemporary Variations in Faculty Involvement in Institutional Governance
- Traits of Effective Senates
- Current & Future Challenges to Faculty Governance

Historical Origins of Faculty [Shared] Governance

- Shared Governance as 20th Century Development Related to Faculty Professionalization
- Uniquely American Development of College Governance Before Civil War
  - Highly Involved External Governing Boards
  - Strong College President [Typically a Clergyman]

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  - Weak Faculty [Rarity of Academic Career]

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- Rise of Faculty Role in Governance after 1876
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- Rise of Faculty Role in Governance after 1876
  - Link to Professionalization: Expertise as Basis for Faculty Involvement
  - Creation of Discipline-Based Departments as Crucial to Faculty Involvement
  - Faculty Control over Classroom & Curriculum
  - Growing Involvement in Hiring and T & P

  - Jointly Formulated by American Assoc. of University Professors (AAUP), Assoc. of Governing Boards (AGB), American Council on Education (ACE)
  - Assigns "primary responsibility" to faculty for "curriculum, subject matter & methods of instruction, research, faculty status . . ." & role in "joint effort" to choose president & other administrators
Contemporary Variations in Forms of Faculty Involvement in Governance

- Senate v. General Faculty Mtg. (Town Hall)
  [75% of 4 Yr. schools have senates]

- Faculty Senate v. University Senate: Pros & Cons
  — Inclusiveness & Consensus Building v. Clarity of Expressing Faculty Perspective
  — Importance of Particular Campus Culture

Contemporary Variations in Forms of Faculty Involvement in Governance

- Committee Structure: Senate v. University

- Common Committees
  - Educational Policies
  - Curriculum
  - Tenure & Promotion
  - Academic Standards
  - Budget

Traits of Effective Senates: Constitutional Set-Up

- Establish Clear Written Guidelines Regarding Role & Responsibilities: Need for Consensus
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Traits of Effective Senates: Procedures

- Allow Faculty to Set the Agenda: Advisability of Faculty Member (not President) as Chair
- Establish Clear Priorities at Beginning of Year
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- Importance of Faculty Determining Method of Their Own Involvement in Governance
- Importance of Constituent Groups Choosing Their Own Representatives

Traits of Effective Senates: Procedures

- Allow Faculty to Set the Agenda: Advisability of Faculty Member (not President) as Chair
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- Make Effective Use of Parliamentary Procedure
- Keep Track of Committee Activities: Regular Reporting Schedule [Insure Timely Action]
Traits of Effective Senates: Institutional Support

- Secretarial Support & Office Space

- Recognition and Reward for Those Involved in Governance Work

Current & Future Challenges to Faculty [Shared] Governance

- Corporatization: Applying Business Models of Management to Higher Education
  - Differences between Higher Ed & Other "Industries": Public Good v. Private Profit

- Appropriate Uses: Non-Academic Activities [Limited Role for Faculty]

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  - Growth of Contingency [70% of Faculty off Tenure-Track]
Current & Future Challenges to Faculty [Shared] Governance

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  - Erosion of Tenure's Impact on Academic Freedom of Faculty Involved in Governance

- Critical Issues for Future of Shared Governance
  - Strategic Planning & Setting Priorities
  - Budgeting
  - IT & Distance Education