Traits of Effective Senates

✓ Permanent office space, files, archives
✓ Annual budget (travel, telephone, computer, supplies, etc.)
✓ Secretarial assistance
✓ Adjusted workload for officers
✓ Regular meetings with college president
✓ Consulted on creation of all non-senate committees
✓ Senate president (faculty officer) presides at senate meetings.
✓ Bylaws specify areas where senate decisions are normally determinative, co-determinative, or advisory
✓ Meetings and activities advertised in advance and records of actions widely published
✓ Attracts both junior and senior faculty who are esteemed as academic leaders
✓ Is regarded by the campus as dealing with crucial issues
✓ Has effective representation on other key governance groups
✓ Senate leadership visible in the ceremonial and symbolic affairs of the campus
✓ Initiates a major portion of its agenda items
✓ Defends the core values of academic freedom, determines curriculum
✓ Provides an effective forum for controversial issues
✓ Is seen as an agent for necessary institutional change
✓ Grounds its practices in parliamentary procedure and published and endorsed principles of governance

Participants at sessions of the AAHE National Network of Faculty Senates developed and refined these traits.