



## **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE: IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY**

The 2011 report concerned the action by the Idaho State Board of Education to suspend the faculty senate at Idaho State University on the recommendation of the university's president, following several years of intense conflict between the senate and the administration. The report found that no justification existed for the decision to suspend the faculty senate and that the administration had violated AAUP-supported governance standards by severely restricting the faculty's decision-making role, suppressing faculty dissent, and initiating the abolition of the faculty senate.

In spring 2018 the president whose actions led to the sanction retired. In November his successor approved a proposed new faculty senate constitution that the faculty had ratified. In December the Idaho State Board of Education gave its final approval to that constitution. The provisional faculty senate voted to dissolve itself, and the election of a new senate under the revised constitution took place this spring. As the restoration of the faculty senate under a constitution approved by the faculty was the major step necessary to remove the sanction, the AAUP's staff contacted the new president, the leadership of the faculty senate, and officers of the AAUP chapter to recommend that an Association representative be sent to campus to assess current conditions for faculty governance and to report that assessment to the Committee on College and University Governance. The president and both faculty groups agreed to the visit, which occurred at the end of March.

The AAUP representative found conditions for faculty governance at ISU to be sound, adding, "I was very much impressed by the dedication of the ISU faculty, the AAUP chapter, and President Satterlee to cooperative institutional change. It is tremendously refreshing to visit a campus where the faculty seems energized not in opposition to fresh outrages, as is sadly too often the case, but because things are improving." He also reported that the faculty senate, the AAUP chapter, and the administration supported removing the sanction.

In view of these favorable developments, the Committee on College and University Governance recommends to the Association's 105th Annual Meeting that Idaho State University be removed from the list of sanctioned institutions.