



Approved by the Committee on College and University Governance on April 25, 2018.

College and University Governance: University of Iowa

The report of the investigating committee concerns departures from AAUP-recommended standards of academic governance that marked the process leading to the selection of a new president, appointed in September 2015 by the state board of regents despite overwhelming faculty objections. The investigation found that, in contrast to historical practice at the university, which had been to involve the faculty fully in presidential searches, the board designed this search process specifically to prevent any meaningful faculty role in the selection of the final candidate.

Immediately following the imposition of the sanction, the faculty senate voted to create an ad-hoc committee “to work toward a way to lift the sanction” and also directed its leadership and the Faculty Council to cooperate with the university’s president and the governing board “to work toward removal of the sanction.” Both a member of the board of regents and a member of the regents’ staff worked closely with the committee, which authored a best-practices document on presidential searches addressing key concerns noted in the investigating committee’s report. The board of regents subsequently stated that this document “will help guide the planning of future presidential transitions as the Board of Regents forms search committees and conducts searches.”

An Association representative visited the University of Iowa in April to assess the institutional climate for academic governance. After meeting with the ad hoc committee, the officers of the senate, and the AAUP chapter leadership, he observed, “There was unanimous agreement among those I spoke to that the climate for governance at UI has improved dramatically since the sanction removal committee began its work in fall 2016. The committee, by virtue of its composition, has brought the faculty and the board of regents together, and both sides have taken advantage of the arrangement in order to rebuild trust. Multiple faculty described the current state of faculty-board relations as the best in the past 20 years or more.” The report concluded, “The available evidence suggests that there is a genuine commitment to shared

governance at UI, and it is reasonable to expect that the institution's next presidential search will mark a return to the tradition of a strong faculty role."

The Committee on College and University Governance recommends to the 104th Annual Meeting that the University of Iowa be removed from the Association's list of sanctioned institutions.