

---

# Report of the Committee on College and University Governance, 2016–17

The Committee on College and University Governance undertook two major activities during the past year.

The first was the planning of the shared governance conference and workshops, which took place in Washington, DC, from September 30 to October 2, 2016. In addition to nearly thirty paper presentations, the program included workshops on shared governance, faculty handbooks, effective senates, Title IX, presidential searches, collective bargaining, and budgets. The attendees' overwhelmingly positive written feedback clearly indicated that the conference was a success. Several of the paper presentations were reworked and ultimately appeared as feature articles in the May–June 2017 issue of *Academe*, which was devoted to academic governance. I thank the AAUP Foundation for its partial funding of the governance conference. Thanks are also due to AAUP president Rudy Fichtenbaum for delivering the opening plenary address and general counsel Risa Lieberwitz for delivering the Neil Rappaport Lecture during the plenary lunch.

The committee's second major undertaking was a governance survey. In May 2016, the committee created a subcommittee to work with a committee from the American Conference of Academic Deans (ACAD) on a survey of academic governance practices and conditions. The most recent national governance surveys had been conducted in 2001 and, before that, in 1970. The primary purposes of a new survey were to determine current governance practices and conditions and to track changes in them over the past several decades. Along with two ACAD counterparts, staff member Hans-Joerg Tiede and I presented preliminary survey results at ACAD's annual meeting in January 2017, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. The presentation was well attended and well received, and we are pursuing opportunities to publish the results of that work.

I thank the members of the Committee on College and University Governance for their service this year. I also thank the members of the national staff—and especially Joerg—for their tireless support of the committee's work. ■

**MICHAEL DECESARE** (Sociology), *chair*  
Merrimack College