



Approved by the Committee on College and University Governance, May 25, 2016

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE: LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY (MISSOURI)

The 1994 report of the investigating committee dealt with conditions of academic governance at Lindenwood College (now Lindenwood University). Based on the findings and conclusions of that report, the Association's Eightieth Annual Meeting placed Lindenwood on the list of institutions sanctioned for substantial non-compliance with standards of academic government.

Prior to the appointment of a new president in 1991, the faculty had been significantly involved in institutional governance and had an effective voice in determining the basic policies of the college, enshrined in governing documents premised on a commitment to shared authority and cooperative action. The new president, however, effected drastic changes in academic governance, replacing the existing structure with a system that concentrated authority in his office.

Governance practices at the college, the investigating committee found, no longer provided for a meaningful faculty role in such fundamental areas as educational policy, faculty status, and related matters where the Association's *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities* accords the faculty primary responsibility. Although the institution's official policies had previously provided for a system of tenure, the administration issued a new edition of the faculty handbook without these provisions, and the faculty was informed that "the College does not grant tenure."

Under the two administrations that followed, conditions for academic governance and the climate for academic freedom improved dramatically. According to faculty members, well-functioning structures of shared governance have been reestablished, and the faculty now plays a meaningful role in institutional decision making. A revised handbook, approved by the faculty and the administration, incorporates protections against involuntary termination of postprobationary faculty members consistent with the 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure*. In March, AAUP representatives visited the campus to confirm these favorable developments, meeting with members of the Lindenwood faculty and administration. In their report to the Association's staff, they wrote that "there was widespread agreement that a system of faculty governance is now in place and that, in the words of one participant, 'we absolutely have faculty governance now.'"

The Committee on College and University Governance recommends to the 102nd Annual Meeting that Lindenwood University be removed from the Association's list of sanctioned institutions.