The proportion of faculty appointments that are “contingent”—lacking the benefits and protections of tenure and a planned long-term relationship with an institution—has increased dramatically over the past few decades. By 2009—the latest year for which national data are available—75 percent of US faculty appointments were off the tenure track, and 60 percent were part time.

A report just out from the AAUP examines the issue and makes recommendations for the inclusion of faculty holding contingent appointments in campus governance structures.

Draft recommendations include the following:

- Faculty members who hold contingent appointments should have governance responsibilities and opportunities similar to those of their tenure-line colleagues.
- Institutional policies should define as “faculty” and include in governance bodies individuals whose appointments consist primarily of professional teaching or research activities.
- Eligibility for voting and holding office should be the same for all faculty.
- All members of the faculty should be eligible to vote in all elections for college and university governance bodies on the basis of one person, one vote.
- Faculty in contingent appointments should have the opportunity to contribute to the evaluation of contingent faculty.
- All faculty members should, in the conduct of governance activities, be explicitly protected by institutional policies from retaliation.
- Faculty holding contingent appointments should be compensated in a way that takes into consideration the full range of their appointment responsibilities.

Produced by a joint subcommittee of two AAUP standing committees, the report is published online for comment (http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/cgreport) and may be revised in response to comments received. Comments should be addressed to Gwendolyn Bradley (gbradley@aaup.org) by September 10.