

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE, 2011–12

The major activity of the Committee on College and University Governance this past year was the holding of the second annual AAUP Shared Governance Conference and Workshops. The event took place November 11–13, 2011, in Washington, DC, and was attended by well over two hundred people. The governance committee took advantage of this event to meet both immediately before and after the conference to discuss other items of business. The conference included nearly forty paper presentations that resulted from the committee's call for proposals, as well as a series of workshops for faculty governance leaders featuring members of the committee, national staff members, and other AAUP leaders. The presentations dealt with the following topics:

- Making senates effective
- The role of faculty handbooks in shared governance
- Collective bargaining and governance
- *Board Responsibility for the Oversight of Educational Quality*, a 2011 statement from the Association of Governing Boards
- Implications for shared governance of the US Supreme Court's *Garcetti* decision
- Faculty involvement in the evaluation of administrators
- What senates need to know about budgets

The Saturday luncheon also featured a roundtable discussion of preliminary recommendations on the inclusion of contingent faculty in governance formulated by a joint subcommittee of the Committee on Contingency and the Profession and the Committee on College and University Governance.

The success of the last two governance conferences sponsored by the committee led to the scheduling of a third annual conference to be held October 26–28, 2012, at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington. The committee is once again inviting paper proposals on any topics relating to governance and will also be organizing a series of six workshops for faculty governance leaders. This year's workshop topics will feature new sessions on

program closures, presidential search and evaluation, and the relationship between AAUP chapters (both collective bargaining and advocacy) and senates, as well updated panels on making senates effective, faculty handbooks, and budgeting. Further information about the event can be found on the AAUP's website (<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/about/events/Gov/default.htm>).

Another important committee activity this past year has been work on a statement titled *The Inclusion in Governance of Faculty Members Holding Contingent Appointments*, the preliminary recommendations from which were presented at last year's governance conference. A subcommittee consisting of two members of the Committee on College and University Governance (Lenore Beaky and Purificación Martínez) and two members of the Committee on Contingency and the Profession (Mayra Besosa and Joe Berry) drafted a comprehensive statement that has now been approved by both parent committees for online publication for comment in summer 2012. Both committees consider the statement a significant step forward in establishing guidelines for the appropriate incorporation of contingent faculty in institutional and departmental governance.

The governance committee also soon hopes to have ready for publication for comment a statement on confidentiality and faculty representation in governance. Committee member Hans-Joerg Tiede and staff member Gregory Scholtz are the principal drafters of this document, which should be ready for distribution later this summer. The question of enforced confidentiality has increasingly come up not only in the conduct of searches for presidents and other administrators but also in committees dealing with budgets and other matters. The new statement will attempt to lay out useful guidelines for faculty as to when, if ever, adhering to confidentiality restrictions may be appropriate.

Status of Recently Sanctioned Institutions

Finally, here is an update on developments relating to

the three institutions most recently sanctioned for infringements of AAUP-supported governance standards.

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (NEW YORK), 2011

In December 2011, the faculty, administration, and governing board agreed to adopt, with few changes, a new faculty senate constitution that had been developed by a faculty committee. The senate was formally reconstituted at the beginning of 2012, and its first organizational meeting was held on March 21. The senate met again on April 6 and 11 to establish priorities for the 2012–13 academic year. While some faculty members have noted that the new constitution does not afford the faculty as much authority as it enjoyed under the previous constitution, others point out that the constitution is more consistent with senate constitutions at RPI's peer institutions, that it has strengthened the senate's committee structures, and that it does include non-tenure-track faculty as senators (though without voting privileges). A new provost, who is a former faculty senate president, has replaced the provost who was in office during the events covered in the report of the investigating committee.

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY, 2011

In April 2011, the ISU faculty elected representatives to a provisional faculty senate to begin drafting a constitution, in accordance with the directive of the Idaho State Board of Education. Almost immediately, however, the interim provost and the newly elected senators (most of whom had played leading roles in the suspended senate) began to clash over the scope of the provisional senate's authority. In November, the provisional senate submitted its draft constitution to the faculty for approval, over the administration's objections. When the faculty voted its approval, the provisional senate sent the document to the president and the state board, asking the president to indicate by December 6 whether he would approve it. The president informed the provisional senate that the draft constitution was not acceptable in its current form. In January 2012, the interim provost sent the administration's revisions of the draft constitution to the faculty with a request for comment. After receiving mainly negative responses, the administration in February sent its version of the draft constitution to the state board, the provisional senate having already sent its draft. In anticipation of the board's acting to adopt one of the proposed constitutions in the coming months, both the administration and the provisional senate also sent the board their conflicting accounts of what had transpired over the past year.

On April 29, the state board, while declining to adopt either proposed constitution, dissolved the provisional faculty senate, directed the election of a new faculty senate in fall 2012, barred any faculty member who had served a full term on the senate in the last three years from running for election, put into effect the administration's governance principles, and charged the president with defining the responsibilities of the new senate, which is to function under the authority of the provost in developing yet another senate constitution.

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY, 2010

The AAUP staff received a March 15 letter from retiring Antioch University chancellor Tullisse A. Murdock, along with accompanying documents, in which she reported the adoption of new policies and procedures at the university in the areas of academic freedom and shared governance. While expressing appreciation of the amount of effort that had gone into revising these policies, the staff in its response emphasized the need for some experience with the policies under the new administration before the Committee on College and University Governance would be prepared to consider the institution's removal from the Association's sanction list. The staff also noted that the absence of a tenure system at the university would likely present an obstacle to the removal of the sanction. ■

LARRY G. GERBER (History), *chair*
Auburn University