

THE FACULTY GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

A new system of faculty governance was instituted in Fall 1991, and substantively revised in 1994, 1995 and 2000. Under this system faculty governance is conducted mainly through three structural elements—the Core Faculty, the Faculty Executive Committee, and faculty committees, including Standing Committees, Joint Committees, and Task Committees. The Core Faculty meets at least once each month from September to May (typically for two hours); it finally decides all matters of policy affecting the faculty. A Faculty Chair is elected for a one-year once-renewable term by the Core Faculty; he or she chairs the meetings of the Core Faculty and the Faculty Executive Committee.

The Faculty Executive Committee is the sole faculty committee with general responsibilities for all phases of faculty governance, and it exercises both legislative and executive functions. It ordinarily meets at least twice a month, serving as the executive arm of the faculty and making recommendations on major issues for faculty approval. Its deliberations provide the agenda for faculty meetings, it appoints faculty committees and task forces as needed, and it interconnects faculty governance with the administration and the Board of Trustees. It is composed of the Faculty Chair, the Deans of the various schools, a number of faculty members equal to the number of Schools and the President and Provost. Its faculty members are elected at-large for staggered two-year terms, with no more than one from each school, and the President and the Provost are nonvoting members.

Other work of the faculty is carried out through standing, joint and task committees. Under the new governance system, interactions between faculty members and trustees have been increased and regularized. The Faculty Chair and Deans of the Schools participate as nonvoting members of the Board of Trustees' Committee on Academic Affairs, and faculty members also serve on several other Board committees.