

REPORT FROM THE FACULTY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE

The Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee (FR&R), in conjunction with the Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) Chapter of American Association of University Professors (AAUP), has been hard at work trying to prepare a "Survey of Shared Governance" to be sent to all faculty here at EKU. The Committee has completed the preliminary work and brings this report to Senate attention.

This report includes the definition of "Shared Governance", a rationale for the use of the Instrument, and a note on results and recommendations. These pages also include a tentative time-line for the completion and use of the Survey, the analysis of the results, and the recommendations sent forward to the Faculty Senate.

WHAT IS "SHARED GOVERNANCE"?

The AAUP, the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, ... [define shared governance as a joint] effort in an academic institution [which takes] a variety of forms appropriate to the kinds of situations encountered. ... Although the variety of ... approaches may be wide, at least two general conclusions regarding joint effort seem clearly warranted: (1) important areas of action involve at one time or another the initiating capacity and decision-making participation of all the institutional components, and (2) differences in the weight of each voice, from one point to the next, should be determined by reference to the responsibility of each component for the particular matter at hand [Furthermore, the AAUP states that the faculty] has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process."

REASON(S) FOR THE "SURVEY":

The Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee wanted to survey that status of shared governance at EKU. The questions on the Survey will enable the Committee, with the aid of Institutional Research and the EKU chapter of the AAUP, to attempt to evaluate the state of shared governance at EKU and make recommendation to the Senate based on those results.

USE OF RESULTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The results will be reported with recommendations for areas of improvement. Survey results and recommendations may be used in reports to external entities, such as the University's self-assessment in preparation for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) review. An example of an initiative the Senate might undertake based on survey results could be faculty development workshops on the skills of shared governance. The Committee proposes that the analysis of data be reported, along with recommendations, to the Senate. The Faculty Senate, thereafter, will determine any further action or dissemination of information.

PRELIMINARY TIMELINE: 2004 - 2005

5 April: Present initial report to the Faculty Senate, Motion to Proceed in New Business.

4 May: Present for Senate approval a draft of the evaluation.

Date of first Fall Faculty Senate meeting: Vote on the Instrument. This will allow the IR to re-edit the evaluation tool (according to Faculty Senate directions) before its use.

September to October 2004: Dispersal of the Evaluation Instrument to EKU faculty through the IR office using the Survey technology.

October –December 2004: The data will be collected and will be analyzed by the IR, and the recommendations prepared by the IR, the Committee, and the AAUP campus chapter in concert.

January meeting 2005: Report the Survey findings and recommendations (by this Committee, IR, EKU chapter of AAUP) to the floor of the Faculty Senate.

This Committee report, the AAUP Evaluation Instrument and the first Committee draft of the Evaluation Instrument may be located meanwhile at www.history.eku.edu/dunston/governance.doc. The original AAUP Instrument may also be located at www.aaup.org/governance/resources/index.htm.

Motion:

The Committee moves that since members of the Faculty Senate represent the faculty leadership of Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), this body, through the efforts of the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee, with the help of the EKU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), and the Office of Institutional Research (IR), undertake a Survey to evaluate the state of shared governance at EKU.