

Case Study Shared Governance --- or Not

Scenario:

To an outsider, the shared governance process is working well at your university. The faculty senate, student government and staff council all have a “voice at the table.” Each year, the students and the staff elect new leadership who represents them in conversations with the President and the Board as a function of shared governance. The faculty leadership group, however, never seems to change. The leadership group appears to rotate between three key individuals who are long-time tenured faculty. New voices and younger faculty seem never to be represented “at the table,” and, at times, the faculty voice seems to be grounded more in tradition and doing things the way they always have been rather than dealing with pressing issues of the day.

Questions to consider:

Can anything be done to bring younger/newer faculty voices to bear?

Is there a role for the Board in this case?