

AAUP Responses to Guiding Principles

See the [Guiding Principles](#) and submit responses at <https://pres.uky.edu/form/principle-feedback>

Based on the proposed recommendations, what are your thoughts on Principle 1?

Principle 1 undermines faculty governance by asserting the sole authority of the Board of Trustees in policy matters, reducing the role of the University Senate in educational policy decisions.

- The principle states that the Board of Trustees has ultimate authority for all policy matters (that is state law already), which should not be delegated (why not if the board makes that choice, as they have until now?).
- This says the Board takes back the power to make decisions about educational policy, such as admissions and academic standards, without consulting with faculty.
- This would undermine the role of the University Senate, which is currently the leading voice in educational policy decisions.

Based on the proposed recommendations, what are your thoughts on Principle 2?

Principle 2 undermines faculty governance by restructuring governance bodies and limiting the authority of the University Senate.

- Principle 2 proposes the creation of three separate shared governance bodies: Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Student Government Association, employing a “divide and conquer” philosophy to reduce each of their influence.
- Principle 2 fragments governance by stakeholders and reduces the influence of everyone but the administration on institutional decision-making.
- The principle also suggests that the Faculty Senate should focus solely on faculty concerns, narrowing its scope and weakening its voice in broader university matters.

Based on the proposed recommendations, what are your thoughts on Principle 3?

Principle 3 undermines faculty governance by creating a President's Council that would overshadow the authority of the Faculty Senate.

- The President's Council would be composed of three students, three staff, three faculty, and three senior administrators, giving non-faculty members equal representation to faculty, even where these groups do not have equal responsibility and expertise.
- A small, hand-picked group from each constituency would be easily intimidated and manipulated.
- The Council would advise the President on "the most critical, high-level institutional matters," which would include issues traditionally within the purview of the Faculty Senate, such as strategic planning, admissions, academic standards, and budget priorities.
- This could undermine the Faculty Senate's role as the primary representative body of faculty and its ability to advocate for faculty interests within the university governance structure.

Based on the proposed recommendations, what are your thoughts on Principle 4?

Principle 4 states that the educational policy which was solely the domain of the Board of Trustees is now pushed down to deans and chairs, which is inconsistent with principle 1. Principle 4 is designed to undermine faculty governance by shifting decision-making authority away from the faculty to the college and unit level, where deans and chairs will make decisions.

- While the principle states that "there should be more primacy for the development of — and decisions about — educational policy and practice at the college and unit level," this could lead to a decrease in the faculty's collective voice in university-wide decision-making. It will lead to more course and programmatic overlap and wasted resources.
- Colleges and units may be more likely to make decisions that are in their own best interests, rather than the interests of the faculty as a whole.
- This could undermine the faculty's ability to set and maintain academic standards, curriculum, and educational policies across the university.