

Resolution on Shared Governance and Budgetary Concerns

Voted on and Approved 17-5-4, at the February 7, 2024, Senate Meeting

The Faculty Senate recommends that American University strengthen faculty engagement in American University's long-range planning and budgetary matters. Such matters include, but are not limited to, budget-development guidelines; tuition and fee changes; unit-level budgeting; and academic-related contracts, including consultant contracts. Faculty engagement should be strengthened by seeking input from underutilized faculty committees, such as the Faculty Senate's Committee on Academic Budget and Benefits (CABB); allotting sufficient time for deliberation on decision points within the University Budget Committee (UBC), which includes three faculty representatives; and enhancing transparency through budget presentations in the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate makes these recommendations because effective university governance requires meaningful faculty involvement in decision-making at every level of operation, especially when addressing allocation of resources among competing demands; the University Faculty Manual states that the Faculty Senate has responsibility for "making recommendations for the academic budget"; and the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) statement on "The Role of the Faculty in Budgetary and Salary Matters" asserts that an elected all-faculty committee at the university level should have a fundamental role "in deciding the overall allocation of institutional resources and the proportion to be devoted directly to the academic program."