

## 1.5

# Top-level checklist

Your academic staff association should consider how it structures itself to support member organizing around effective collegial governance of the institution.

As part of an initial or regular review of governance-supporting structures and practices, consider the following general statements, reflecting on the academic staff association's efforts to strengthen governance at the institution and to protect and foster their members' voices within<sup>1</sup>.

Then, consult the appropriate sections of the CAUT Governance Library for more information. Each contains detailed information about specific issues.

- The association proactively articulates and promotes a clear, coherent, collectively shared vision of meaningful collegial governance of the institution. Further, it regularly engages with all its members about this vision and the attendant issues.
- The association leads initiatives to ensure that all members have a basic understanding of collegial governance and about the importance of organizing to enact a more robust collegial governance culture.

The association routinely assesses the health of collegial governance at the institution, including through:

- Direct, ongoing engagement with members involved in governance
  - Routinely and systematically collecting governance-related information
  - Conducting analyses of acute or pervasive weaknesses or threats as well areas of strength and opportunities
- The association has secured or has concrete plans to secure collective agreement language that confers rights and conditions for members, as well as obligations on employers, required for protecting and fostering meaningful collegial governance.

The association provides its members with informational resources and educational opportunities about governance, including:

- Regularly communicating about important institutional issues
- Developing analyses, reports and issues briefs
- Providing governance-related training opportunities for members, including but not limited to members serving on or who are considering serving on governance bodies

The association provides a point of contact for members, senators, etc. with governance questions, concerns, etc.

The association monitors governance forums and affairs and develops analyses and resources about key issues and initiatives. Areas and activities monitored include:

- Board of governors
- Senate
- Faculty councils
- Institutional planning, including budgeting and finances
- Institutional policy
- Academic administrator search, performance evaluation, and reappointment

The association has, and periodically reviews, a response plan for addressing governance-related problems at the institution.

The association has structured itself to sustain consistent efforts that support collegial governance of the institution, including through specific officer duties and committee structures and by funding officer release time, providing dedicated resources to committees, and assigning staff to support activities.

The association performs periodic reviews of its own internal structures for supporting member organizing around effective collegial governance of the institution.

The association informs CAUT of any governance threats, challenges, successes or opportunities, so that these may help to inform the iterative development of the Governance Library.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Associations at institutions that currently lack collegial governance, such as many Canadian colleges, should start by consulting Organizing for Collegial Governance at Canadian Colleges in the CAUT Governance Library.

This document is part of CAUT's Governance Library, an evolving collection of resources for supporting member associations in efforts to strengthen systems of collegial governance at their institutions and to protect and foster academic staff voices within them.

Feedback and suggestions for continued library development are welcome. Please contact CAUT's Governance Committee at [governance-gouvernance@caut.ca](mailto:governance-gouvernance@caut.ca).



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