

Shared Governance

What is it? Why is it important?

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“Faculty are at the heart of the academic enterprise of teaching, research and public service. They are critical not only in maintaining the quality of the university’s academic programs, but also in advising the president and the chancellors.”

J. A. Douglas (1998). Shared Governance at the University of California: An Historical Review. *Research and Occasional Paper Series, Center for Studies in Higher Education*.

“Faculty participation in governance of the University through the agency of the Academic Senate is a guiding force that unifies the ten campuses of the University into a single system under a uniform standard of excellence.”

D. L. Simmons (1995, 2009). Shared Governance in the University of California: an overview.
<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/resources/SHRDGOV09Revision.pdf>

Shared Governance: The Cornerstone of the UC System

Academic Senate Duties and Powers ([Regents Bylaw 40.1](#)):

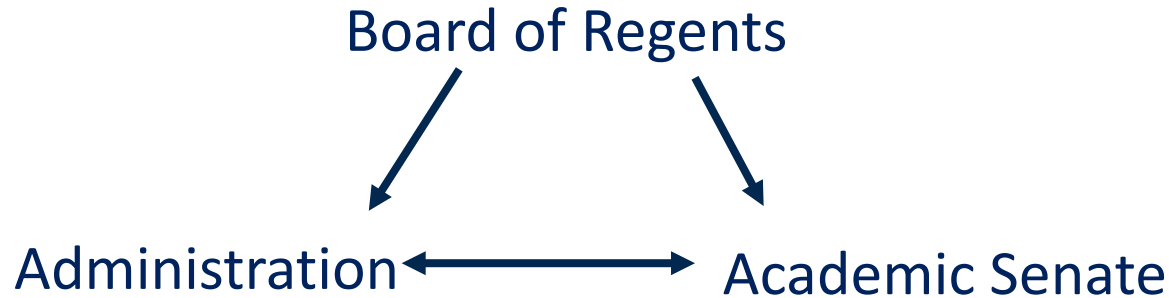
Statutory Authority:

- Determine conditions for admission and for certificates and degrees
- Authorize and supervise all courses and curricula

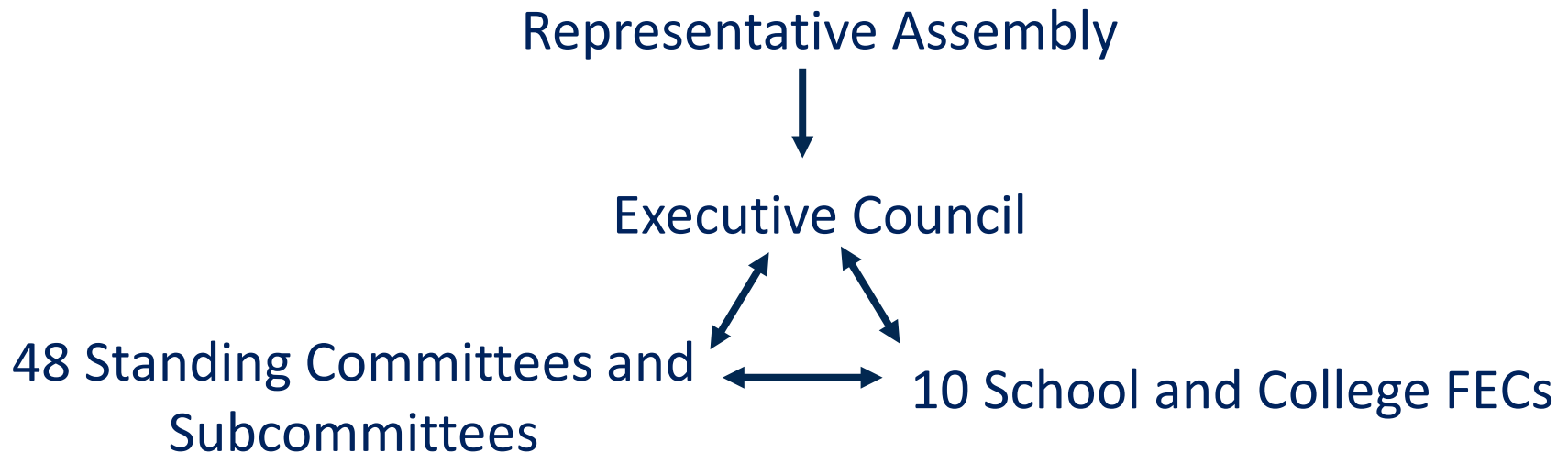
Advisory Responsibility:

- Advise the president and chancellors on campus and university budgets, and on the administration of libraries
- Advise on faculty appointments, merits, and promotions
- Advise the administration on many additional issues that affect the conduct and welfare of the university

University of California



Davis Division of the Academic Senate

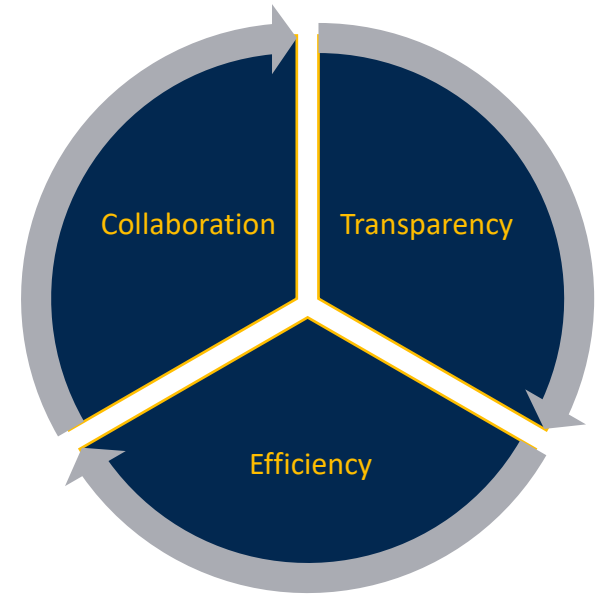


Davis Division Standing Committees

Academic Freedom and Responsibility	Planning and Budget
Admissions and Enrollment	Instructional Space and Advisory
Committee on Academic Personnel - Appellate	Subcommittee
Committee on Academic Personnel - Oversight	Public Service
Faculty Personnel Committees (9)	Research
Committee on Committees	Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors and Prizes
Courses of Instruction	Graduate Council
Distinguished Teaching Awards	Academic Planning and Development
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Administrative
Elections, Rules and Jurisdiction	Bylaws
Emeriti	Courses
Executive Council	Educational Policy
Faculty Distinguished Research Award	Grad Student/Postdoctoral Scholar Welfare
Faculty Privilege/Academic Personnel Advisers	Program Review
Faculty Welfare	Program Review Closure
Grade Changes	Undergraduate Council
Information Technology	General Education
International Education	Preparatory Education
Library	Special Academic Programs
Privilege and Tenure – Hearings	Undergraduate Instruction & Program
Privilege and Tenure - Investigative	Review

Davis Division Operating Principles

- UC Davis has a strong, longstanding shared governance culture.
- The Davis Division aspires to collaborate respectfully, communicate transparently, and operate efficiently.
- Our advisory role on campus is critical—broad faculty input helps administrative partners (and faculty colleagues) make better-informed decisions.



Davis Division Operating Principles (cont.)

- Our collective influence is strongest through relationships backed by trust and respect.
 - When issues and disagreements arise, we keep lines of communication open, follow appropriate processes, and operate in good faith.
- We bring a diversity of views with us into committee service, and we may not always agree.
 - It's important that we consider—and even welcome—dissenting opinions and ensure that these are not ignored when opining.
- *When we speak to the Regents and Administration, we speak with one voice.*

Request for Consultation (RFC) Process

- Structured workflow, ensuring that the faculty is consulted, and its voice heard
- Broad participation and perspective
- Collective expertise
- Decision-making based on faculty input
- Deliberative and transparent
- One voice

Davis Division Priorities 2026-2027

1. Carry-forward action items from previous years
 - a. Strengthening research administration at UC Davis
 - b. Planning for implementation of a Climate Change GE literacy
 - c. Considering implementation of recommendations from the 2019 Special Committee report on Evaluation of Teaching

1. Issues of ongoing discussion
 - a. Responsible use of AI in higher education
 - b. Examining our Instructional mission in a period of fiscal constraints and political polarization

How can you participate?

- Respond to the Academic Senate Annual Call distributed by email in December
 - Appointments and re-appointments are conducted annually
 - Many more volunteer than can be placed, so apply again next year!
- Get involved in Senate service at the college or school level and explore other forms of service at the departmental and graduate group level
- Exceptional service effort is recognized during the merit and promotion process

Questions?

- Dan Potter, Davis Division Chair:
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- Edwin Arevalo, Executive Director:
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Resources

- Davis Division of the Academic Senate
 - <https://academicsenate.ucdavis.edu/about>
- Systemwide Academic Senate
 - <https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/about/index.html>
- 1998 Paper by J. A. Douglass
 - <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/07q345d0>
- 2009 Paper by D. L. Simmons
 - https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/sharedgovernanceintheuniversityofcalif_simmons.pdf