

Shared / faculty governance, and what's next for the CLA Faculty Senate

From the CLA Faculty Senate Agenda Committee (Boling, Bulow, Dilger, Gotfredson, Kaufmann-Buhler, Klein-Pejšová, & Riggs) for the CLA Faculty Senate, March 2022.

The CLA Faculty Senate leadership has been asked about shared governance & faculty governance via our Qualtrics suggestion box. Issues regarding faculty governance have also emerged in Senate meetings related to faculty searches, non-tenured faculty, the organization of the Senate, and the direction of the College.

We note that shared governance is also an issue at the university level. The manner in which the civics literacy requirement was added to the Purdue curriculum is a recent example, as visible in two letters to the editor that appeared in the *Journal & Courier*:

[Commentary: Purdue Senates govern Purdue's curricula, not the Trustees](#) (June 10, 2021)

[Purdue board: Trustees decide curriculum requirement](#) (June 11, 2021)

With this in mind, we wanted the CLA Faculty Senate and CLA faculty in general to be aware of the [university-level shared governance task force](#), chaired by Deborah Nichols. Documents on their web site describe the history of this group, detail its goal of “re-examining” shared governance at Purdue, and suggest the Protect Purdue task force as a model of recent success, in distinction to the University Senate, which is characterized as “ineffective” and “toxic.” An update was delivered by this group to the [University Senate](#) on [January 24](#); at the same meeting, Senate document 21–14 “Opposition to an Attempt at Restructuring/Dissolution of the Purdue,” was approved by the Senate. The tension here seems clear; see the [January 24 Senate minutes](#), items 13 and 14, for even sharper detail.

The shared governance task force web site also notes:

Deliverables from [shared governance task force] working groups are due in February 2022 and will be used to draft a proposal to be presented to the Board of Trustees for their consideration during their April 2022 board meeting.

We hope you will join us in educating yourself about this task force, looking for this proposal, and responding to any requests for feedback presented by the task force at that time.

The Agenda Committee of the CLA Faculty Senate will be concluding this year by presenting a report to CLA faculty at large and working closely with next year's leadership team to ensure a smooth transition.

We hope the work of this year's CLA Faculty Senate will continue, and we invite you to participate by serving on the Senate in 2022–23, and/or by sharing your feedback about the work the Senate should engage in the coming year.