



## Faculty Governance at CU Boulder

Governance was a key issue raised by faculty during Academic Futures discussions. Three Open Forums were devoted to the topic. There is a clear desire for a stronger and more defined governance structure. There is also a clear recognition of the difficulties in sorting out which issues require approval and which simply input.

**Current State:** The conversations pointed out that faculty governance means different things in different schools and colleges. The Arts and Science Council is probably the most formal structure for faculty governance, with varying kinds of structures in place elsewhere. Of course, for the campus as a whole there is the Boulder Faculty Assembly and for the system, Faculty Council. People noted that there are forms of faculty governance, such as program review, which is a faculty run process, that are not usually considered as part of our faculty governance structure.

A number of concerns and possibilities were raised:

- Communication between the administration and faculty and between faculty governance groups and the campus was seen to be a major weakness.
- There is a perception among faculty that governance has weakened in recent years.
- Chairs were seen as a potential but under-utilized resource for faculty governance.
- People found that governance was poorly defined on campus: What is faculty governance at CU Boulder?
- Faculty felt that faculty governance bodies were ineffective and were thus unwilling to participate.
- Lack of contact between and among varying kinds of faculty groups was noted.

Key Areas for Consideration:

- Definition of various forms of faculty governance
- Modes of faculty governance including the BFA, chairs, faculty committees, etc.
- Structure of faculty governance: do we have the best structures in place? What else might we imagine? How do we make sure faculty feel represented?





# Academic Futures

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

- **Participation** by the faculty in governance needs to be strengthened. How do we do that? What is the reward for participation?
- **Communication** between all levels was seen as a key to success.

What might success look like? Campus input indicates that faculty participation in shared governance is a key not only to fair decision making but to harnessing the creativity of the campus.

- A stronger, clearer definition of faculty governance, one shared by the entire campus
- Improved faculty governance structures, with meaningful opportunities for faculty to engage in this work
- Vastly improved communications between various levels and groups
- A clear sense on the part of the faculty that they are shaping the future of the campus.

White Papers submitted to Academic Futures in this area

- *Communications as a mechanism of shared governance (Provost's Faculty Communications Committee)*
- *The future of large lecture spaces (Fell et al.)*
- *An Invitation to Close a Historic Divide (Strategic Resources and Support)*
- *Increasing the Capacity for Change at CU Wise, Sarah et al.*

