[AAUP](http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/)*»*[Issues in Higher Education](http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/issues/)*»*[Governance of Colleges & Universities](http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/issues/governance/)*» Traits of Effective SenatesTrait*

**Traits of Effective Senates**

\_\_Permanent office space, files, archives

\_\_Annual budget(travel,telephone,computer,supplies,etc.)

\_\_Secretarial assistance

\_\_Adjusted workload for officers

\_\_Regular meetings with college president

\_\_Consulted on creation of all non-senate committees

\_\_Senate president (faculty officer) presides at senate meetings.

\_\_Bylaws specify areas where senate decisions are normally determinative, co-determinative, or advisory

\_\_Meetings and activities advertised in advance and records of actions widely published

\_\_Attracts both junior and senior faculty who are esteemed as academic leaders

\_\_Is regarded by the campus as dealing with crucial issues

\_\_Has effective representation on other key governance groups

\_\_Senate leadership visible in the ceremonial and symbolic affairs of the campus

\_\_Initiates a major portion of its agenda items

\_\_Defends the core values of academic freedom, determines curriculum

\_\_Provides an effective forum for controversial issues

\_\_Is seen as an agent for necessary institutional change

\_\_Grounds its practices in parliamentary procedure and published and endorsed principles of governance

Participants at sessions of the AAHE National Network of Faculty Senates during the past twelve years have developed and refined these traits. Please let us know of additional traits you think are essential.

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