

Policies of the University of North Texas	Chapter 06 Faculty Affairs
06.047 Shared Governance and the Role of Advisory Committees and the Academic Administration	

Policy Statement. Shared governance is a central tenet of academic decision-making at UNT, as it is in higher education at major public universities throughout the United States, and the participation of faculty assures that academic quality remains at the heart of the decision-making process. Faculty shall have a voice in academic policy and all academic decisions, as authorized by state law, rules of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Regents Rules, and UNT policy, through the Faculty Senate; department and school/college elected and appointed committees; and faculty advisory councils. Authority for decisions, however, vests in the Board of Regents, chancellor, and the president. The president may delegate authority to other members of the university administration as allowed by state law and Regents Rules; however, authority rests only with individuals - who are directly accountable for the decisions they make - and may not rest with a committee.

Application of Policy. Faculty and academic administration.

Definitions.

1. **Academic Administration.** “Academic administration” or “administration,” for purposes of this policy, means a university official with an academic appointment and an administrative assignment with significant duties relating to the operation of UNT, including central/university-level operations, and the operation of a department or school/college.
2. **Academic Policy.** “Academic policy” includes, curriculum, subject matter and methods of instructions and research, matters of faculty status, those aspects of student life that relate to the educational process; and matters relating to the general welfare of the university that may be considered by the Faculty Senate.
3. **Academic Unit.** “Academic unit” means an academic department/division under the administration of a UNT official with responsibility for personnel actions.

Procedures and Responsibilities.

Faculty will have a voice in all academic policy and academic decision-making in accordance with Regents Rule 06.100, Shared Governance and UNT policy.

1. **Academic Policy.** The Faculty Senate shall recommend academic policies in accordance with state law, rules of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Regents Rules.
2. **Academic Matters.** On matters directly involving the structure of academic degree programs, degree qualifications, the curriculum, the review and grading of student accomplishments, and the conferral of academic degrees, the faculty is responsible for

developing the standards and criteria for final approval by the administration. While the administration must ultimately approve matters involving academic quality, the faculty voice is primary.

3. Personnel Matters. In matters involving personnel, such as supervision within an administrative unit, work assignment, evaluation, discipline, and allocation of resources (including space, graduate assistantships, support for travel, support for research projects, etc.), authority rests with the administrator with decision-making authority. However, decisions on such matters should be made after consultation with the appropriate faculty committee or advisory body.

Responsible Party: Faculty, Provost, and Academic Administration

References and Cross-References.

Regents Rule 04.300, Institution Presidents

Regents Rule 06.100, Shared Governance

UNT Policy 06.004, Faculty Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion

Approved: 1/23/2010

Effective: 1/23/2010

Revised: 5/25/2018