



**Policy Chapter:** Chapter 6 Faculty Affairs

**Policy Number and Title:** 06.047 Shared Governance and the Role of Advisory Committees and the Academic Administration

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## **I. 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.

## **II. Application of Policy**

Faculty and Academic Administration

## **III. Policy Definitions**

### **A. Academic Administration**

“Academic administration” and “administration,” in this policy, mean 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.

### **B. Academic Policy**

“Academic policy,” in this policy, means policy affecting academic matters, including 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.

### **C. Academic Unit**

“Academic unit,” in this policy, means an academic department/division under the administration of a UNT official with responsibility for personnel actions.

## **IV. Policy Responsibilities**

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

**A. 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.

**B. 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.

**C. 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.

**V. References and Cross-References**

[UNT Systems Board of Regents Rule 04.300, Institution Presidents](#)

[UNT Systems Board of Regents Rule 06.100, Shared Governance](#)

[UNT Policy 06.004, Faculty Reappointment, Tenure, Promotion, and Reduced Appointment](#)

**VI. Revision History**

Policy Contact:	Policy Director, Office of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs
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