

Section 4.8.8 The Role of the Faculty and Its Committees

Presentation of Findings

4.8.8/1 of 2
**Faculty: Primary
Responsibility for
Educational Program**

The faculty of Old Dominion University plays a significant role in the development and implementation of academic policy. Recognizing the critical role of faculty in institutional decision-making, Old Dominion operates on the principle of shared governance, marked by shared authority among University constituent groups. The major instrument of shared governance, the Faculty Senate, provides faculty with the mechanisms and procedures for the development of and implementation of recommendations in areas of academic matters and professional faculty concerns. The Faculty makes timely comments upon policy matters that directly relate to curriculum and academic standards (BOV Policy Number 1301). To ensure that appropriate faculty consideration is given to the instructional program, curricular matters to be considered at the University level, for example degree program proposals or recommendations concerning courses to meet university general education requirements, are first forwarded with the proposal for consideration by the Faculty Senate to the central administration (Faculty Handbook, Curricular Information).

4.8.8/2 of 2
**Published Role of
Faculty in Academic
Affairs**

Faculty responsibility for educational programs is clearly documented. By law, the ultimate decision-making authority is in the Office of the President (BOV Policy Number 1210; Faculty Handbook, Administrative Organization). However, Old Dominion University's mission and traditions have provided for a significant role for the faculty, particularly in the areas of faculty appointment, retention, promotion, tenure, and development; academic programs, organization, and standards; academic services; and continuing education. Along with responsibilities allocated to the departments and colleges, the Faculty Senate represents the faculty with respect to policy on academic matters and the professional faculty concerns as well as performing such other functions as are delegated to it by the faculty. Specifically, the Faculty Senate represents the faculty in recommending policies to the President and other appropriate individuals or bodies concerning admissions and registration, curriculum, academic freedom and tenure, faculty status, academic standards, and related matters.

All faculty under full-time teaching and research contracts and all professional librarians of Old Dominion University are members of the Faculty Forum. The Faculty Senate consists of forty members elected from the membership of the Faculty Forum. The bylaws of the Faculty Senate provide for a number of committees responsible for the initiation or consideration of matters related to academic programs, academic standards, academic support services, faculty affairs, and promotion and tenure. Some of the standing committees are the Undergraduate Curriculum and Programs, Undergraduate Academic Policy and Procedures, Graduate Studies, Student Services, and the Library committee. The specific responsibilities of the committees are enumerated in the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Standing committees, as well as the Faculty Senate as a whole, meet on a regular basis throughout the academic year. Committees report on their activities at each regular meeting of the Senate. Items generated by the Senate's standing committees are brought to the floor and voted on by the whole Senate. Such voting constitutes a recommendation by the Faculty Senate to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and then to the

President of the University, who retains ultimate authority. Minutes of the Faculty Senate are published on the Web.

Each college and department is also required to maintain written bylaws. In addition, some schools, such as the School of Nursing, maintain their own faculty associations, and bylaws exist for these assemblies as well.

Other University councils and committees also have roles in the establishment of University academic policy. For example, the Council of Senior Academic Deans assists the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs in developing policies, procedures, and future directions in academic programming. In addition, the General Education Committee is responsible for recommending changes to the structure or constituent courses of the University's general education program. The Graduate Committee is responsible for formulating, reviewing, disseminating, and monitoring the implementation of policies and procedures concerning the graduate program.

Although the policies adopted through the system of shared governance do not necessarily reflect the preferences of every faculty member, Old Dominion University has a formidable tradition of faculty empowerment. Although faculty input, by law, is advisory, in reality all recommendations to the administration made through the Faculty Senate are carefully considered and most are acted upon positively. Faculty governance at Old Dominion University has real force in the daily operations of the institution.

Conclusion

The University is in compliance with the SACS/COC *Criteria*.

Recommendations/Suggestions

None

Must Statement Compliance Table
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Must Statement	Compliance Statement	Supporting Documentation <u>Exhibit Numbering Key:</u> Criteria#/MustStatement#:Exhibit
4.8.8/1 of 2 Primary responsibility for the quality of the educational program must reside with the faculty.	Compliance	4.8.8/1:01 Board of Visitors Policy 1301, University Governance 4.8.8/1:02 Faculty Handbook, Curricular Information 4.8.8/1:03 Faculty Senate, Constitution and Bylaws
4.8.8/2 of 2 The extent of the participation and jurisdiction of the faculty in academic affairs must be clearly set forth and published.	Compliance	4.8.8/2:01 Board of Visitors Policy Number 1210, Authority to Act on Behalf of the University 4.8.8/2:02 Faculty Handbook, Administrative Organization 4.8.8/2:03 Faculty Senate, Constitution 4.8.8/2:04 Faculty Senate, Bylaws 4.8.8/2:05 Faculty Senate, Minutes 1999-2001 4.8.8/2:06 General Education Committee, Purpose Statement