

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 developed and refined these traits.