

STATEMENT ON COMMITTEE RELATIONSHIPS

Operating Committees * Policy Committees * Senate

It is appropriate for operating committees to advise administrators on the implementation of University policies and generally on University operations within the scope of their charge. They should not, however, attempt to determine policy issues except by development of recommendations to the policy committees.

Operating committees should make full reports of their proceedings, by copies of minutes or otherwise, to their policy committees. The policy committees should not review in detail or report to the Senate on operating committee decisions which do not involve policy issues. In other words, the first concern of a policy committee in reviewing operating committee proceedings should be to identify possible policy issues. If the policy committee believes that a policy issue is involved in a particular matter, the operating committee's decision should be given full consideration by the policy committee, and then, in most cases, by the Senate. If no policy issue is involved, further consideration by the policy committee is not required and the action of the operating committee may stand. In ambiguous situations, policy chairs are encouraged to consult with the Executive Committee to determine if a policy issue is involved which warrants attention by the Senate.

Policy issues are involved whenever existing University policy would be altered in any substantial way, whether by express change or by interpretation (including significant changes in University catalogs and bulletins, the *Tenured and Probationary Faculty Reference Guide*, the *Lecturer Reference Guide*, the statement on *Student Rights and Responsibilities* and similar documents) and generally where new rules or provisions affecting substantial numbers of students or faculty or a wide range of University operations are proposed. Intensity of interest or concern, as well as scope, may also sometimes justify the treatment of an issue as one of policy.

Final action on University rules, policies and procedures affecting the professional concerns of the faculty, such as teaching, research, departmental governance, and recruitment, retention, promotion, discipline and grievances of faculty, should normally be taken by the Senate after study and recommendation by a policy or special committee. Application of policy in specific cases, however, is normally not appropriate for Senate consideration and action.