

Defining the Relationship Between Marywood University’s Faculty Senate and the Marywood University Chapter of the AAUP

Marywood University Faculty Senate Mission:

- “1. The purpose of the Faculty Senate is to support and further the mission of Marywood University.
2. The Faculty Senate identifies the interests and represents the views of the faculty on matters of curriculum, academic policy and faculty personnel as well as other concerns, and makes recommendations to appropriate bodies and takes actions on its behalf.
3. The Faculty Senate may also respond to specific requests from the administration to consider other university issues.”

Marywood University Chapter of the AAUP Mission:

“Consistent with the mission of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), MU-AAUP believes that higher education is a fundamental human right to which freedom of inquiry and expression are integral. The formation of Marywood’s AAUP chapter signals the faculty’s ongoing commitment to standards of quality in higher education, including shared governance and academic freedom.”

Defining the Relationship

As noted in the above mission statement, the role of the Marywood University Faculty Senate (MU-FS) is legislative and deliberative in character and action. Further, given the Marywood University Chapter of the AAUP’s (MU-AAUP) commitment to academic freedom and its commitment to the perpetuation and protection of shared governance, the MU-AAUP can be understood as both an advocate and a resource for the MU-FS, especially given the MU-AAUP’s capacity to reinforce and strengthen Senate decisions and to address faculty concerns beyond the jurisdiction of the Senate. Indeed, according to the national AAUP, the primary objectives of the AAUP chapter should be understood in the following way: “First, the chapter is the institutional manifestation of the AAUP and its policies and principles; as the direct link to the AAUP, the chapter can facilitate guidance for the senate on academic policy matters. Second, unlike the senate, which is organic to the institution, the AAUP chapter is an independent organization and can advocate for the positions and recommendations of the senate in ways the senate cannot.” In this capacity, the MU-AAUP can offer the MU-FS guidance on policymaking, can support and aid the MU-FS in organizing faculty and soliciting faculty feedback (through the use of survey tools, etc.), can enlist the support of other constituencies, and the like. In short, the MU-AAUP should be understood as an ally, partner, and political advocate for the MU-FS; this relationship, so understood, coheres with and supports the missions of both the MU-FS and the MU-AAUP.