



TALKING POINTS

UK March 2024 Faculty Meetings w/ President Capilouto re: Shared Governance

<p><u>UCW Talking Point #1</u> There's not a real problem.</p>	<p>Evidence: There has been no evidence offered of the University Senate causing any problems related to efficiency, responsiveness, etc. Claims about the number of pages of rules or number of standing committees are not evidence of the Senate being inefficient.</p> <p>Evidence: The Deloitte consultant at the Board of Trustees meeting explicitly admitted their process "wasn't scientific."</p>
<p><u>UCW Talking Point #2</u> The administration has already shown us what they think substantive engagement with faculty is: lip-service without respect or shared power.</p>	<p>Evidence: Deloitte's work occurred behind closed doors with members sworn to secrecy.</p> <p>Evidence: Working Group V, which made the report to the Board of Trustees exclusively focused on criticizing the University Senate, had <i>only one</i> faculty member on it.</p> <p>Evidence: Faculty were not informed of the coming critique of the University Senate early enough prior to the Board of Trustees meeting to make a request to speak in opposition to it.</p>
<p><u>UCW Talking Point #3</u> This has already happened at West Virginia University, and it has resulted in loss of faculty power and the firing of faculty, including tenured and tenure-track faculty.</p>	<p>Evidence: Like UK, WVU hired a consulting company (RPK Consulting) to make recommendations in service of "efficiency" and cost-cutting.</p> <p>Evidence: Cutting faculty out of decision-making allowed the WVU administration to make faulty financial and restructuring decisions, leading to a vote of no confidence in WVU President E. Gordon Gee, followed by the administration eliminating over 3 dozen programs and over 165 faculty lines.</p>



WHAT OPPOSITION SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM ADMINISTRATORS?

<p>Administrator line: “I am going to do everything to protect what faculty do in their classes.”</p>	<p>Our answer: What President Capilouto and his representatives will not say: I will not protect your ability to have final control over this. Capilouto is using meetings and listening sessions to claim he is getting buy-in and has a view that is representative of worker concerns.</p>
<p>Administrator line: “I am giving more control to smaller bodies, smaller units.”</p>	<p>Our answer: The University Senate already empowers smaller bodies and units to manage educational policy in ways that are best suited for their contexts. The Senate also protects students, staff, and faculty alike from abuses of power and the confusion that can arise from conflicting rules across units.</p>
<p>Administrator line: “Some faculty are disgruntled, they are over-reacting.”</p>	<p>Our answer: Over 220 faculty attended the Senate Council open meeting on Monday, March 4. An extraordinarily high percentage of the faculty share our concerns about this threat to shared governance and faculty authority over educational policy-making. A Deloitte consultant admitted at the Board of Trustees meeting that their claims about a small number of faculty leaders being disgruntled are unscientific, so they are not representative of the truth.</p>
<p>Administrator line: “I promise you, that you will have autonomy, that you will have freedom. I will do everything in my power to ensure that.”</p>	<p>Our answer: Power over these matters should not be vested in one individual. That’s too much to be put on them and not a good way to delineate control over important matters. And it means we have to hope that future presidents are generous about sharing control. Moreover, doing <i>everything</i> would actually mean retaining the regulations as they are to ensure faculty have decision-making authority in matters of educational policy.</p>