

Resolution on Maintaining the Independence and Integrity of Externally Funded Academic Programs, Centers, and Institutes

Whereas the landscape of funding for higher education has changed dramatically in recent years with private foundations contributing significantly to the educational missions of many universities;

Whereas several recent controversies have erupted at other universities over concerns that external funding of programs, institutes, and centers has produced undue influence by donors over the hiring of faculty or directors, constraints on academic freedom, or programs incompatible with the university's mission;

Whereas it is imperative that in accepting such funds, Marquette University maintains its governing independence and adherence to the University mission;

Whereas the Statutes of the University Academic Senate define one of the core "shared governance responsibilities" of the UAS to be "review and evaluation of programs, Centers and Institutes";

Whereas the UAS Statutes, in Article 1, Section 1.01(a), give to the UAS the right of prior approval of all "[m]ajor curricular changes, including initiation ... of ... programs";

Whereas the UAS Statutes, in Article 1, Section 1.01(b), give to the UAS the right of prior approval of all "[o]rganizational changes," including "establishing ... Schools, Colleges, [and] Centers and Institutes"; and

Whereas the American Association of University Professors has adopted a comprehensive set of recommended principles to avoid conflicts between external funding sources and the academic enterprise; now, therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that the University Academic Senate:

1. Reaffirms the critical importance to the process of shared governance of prior Senate approval of new additions to the academic mission of the University, such as new programs, centers, and institutes;
2. Emphasizes that, as a necessary component of shared governance, the Senate must be consulted before any plans for new programs, centers, and institutes have become final, so that the Senate may have time to deliberate and provide meaningful input; and

3. Expects that, in order to receive Senate approval, any proposed new academic program, center, or institute receiving external funding will be consistent with the following principles:
 - A. Academic centers, institutes, and other similar endeavors must be designed and executed to be fully consistent with Marquette University's deep and public commitment to academic freedom and faculty governance. Faculty oversight of the initiative must be a significant and ongoing part of its functions.
 - B. Funds to support faculty, staff, and visiting scholar positions, to facilitate and disseminate research, and to sponsor events must be solicited and utilized in a transparent manner. This includes, in line with disciplinary norms regarding publication, that faculty must be able to openly report the funding sources for the initiative. Such funding must not involve restrictions on open and honest discussions, and decisions about its use must be faculty-driven. Faculty connected to academic centers and institutes must be free to pursue projects derived from their professional expertise and consistent with both the center or institute's and Marquette University's missions. Consistent with the practice at other major universities, the agreements or contracts delineating the terms of the funding arrangements should be available to the faculty.
 - C. All faculty lines (tenure-track or non-tenure-track) connected to an academic center or institute must be based in Marquette University's existing academic departments. Those departments, in consultation with the Dean's and Provost's offices, will oversee the hiring process as they would for other faculty hires. Likewise, promotion and tenure decisions for faculty associated with an academic center or institute will follow the promotion and tenure process of the faculty member's home department.
 - D. The Director of an academic center or institute will be chosen through a national and open search process. The selection of the Director will be based on the recommendation of a search committee made up of faculty from the center or institute's affiliated departments. The search and selection processes should be modeled on the successful search for the Director of Marquette's Center for Urban Research, Teaching, and Outreach. The Director of an academic center or institute will report directly to the Dean, Provost, or Provost's designee (depending on whether it is a center or an institute).

- E. Given Marquette's financial challenges and its ongoing plans for building projects, an academic center or institute must be financially sustainable. New faculty lines (and the center or institute's Director position) must be based on existing budget funds or funded through annual payouts from new endowment funds specifically raised in support of the initiative. No significant temporary funding requiring the University to cover compensation of its staff or operating costs related to the initiative should be sought or accepted.
- F. The advisory board of an academic center or institute will regulate the foregoing principles. Its members will be selected by the chairs of the center or institute's affiliated departments in consultation with their faculty and the Dean's and Provost's offices. It will not dictate specific activities, participants, or direction of the center or institute's research objectives or findings.

Passed and adopted by the Marquette University Academic Senate on April 15, 2019.