UK Organizational Structure

As a land grant institution, UK has a unique administration and governance model with diversified powers given to state legislators, the president, the provost’s office, deans of each college, the Board of Trustees, and the Faculty Senate. The University has a staff senate and a student government association which also contribute to the overall administrative structure.

The state government establishes objectives for the University to fulfill as a service to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Furthermore, the state legislature sets policies for the University, as well as appropriate state funds for the University’s budget. The governor of the state appoints the majority of members of the University’s Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees is a 20-member governing body that is the University’s final authority in all matters concerning finances, education curriculum, accreditation, and correspondence with state and federal authorities. Sixteen members are directly appointed by the governor of Kentucky. The remaining four members are representatives from the faculty (2), staff (1), and student body (1).

The president of the University is charged with the task of ensuring the fulfillment of the state’s and the Board of Trustees’ agendas by establishing a strategic plan. The president also oversees campus operations which include all the facilities, programs, campuses, and University personnel. The president reports to the Board of Trustees.

The provost is the chief academic officer for the University. The Provost oversees all academic, research, and student programs and initiatives, deans from each of the 18 colleges, as well as the operations for the University. The provost reports to the president of the University.

Each college of the University is led by a dean who oversees the academic programs, faculty, and staff. Deans also establish and monitor the college’s budget. Each dean reports to the Provost.

The University Senate is the official governing body of the faculty at the University of Kentucky. Its main purpose is to review academic policies for the 200+ academic programs and to establish a forum for faculty to vocalize concerns affecting their college or the campus body. In addition, it holds the responsibility of conferring degrees (including honorary degrees). Two members of the faculty senate represent the faculty as sitting members of the Board of Trustees. The Undergraduate Council (a subgroup of the Senate) reviews requests for new and revised undergraduate courses and degree programs. The Senate Council must confer final approval on curricular changes for them to become official.
The **Staff Senate** is the official representation of the staff members of the University, which provides a forum for University staff to raise issues and causes. One of the main objectives of the staff senate is to create an overall great work environment for staff.

The **Student Government Association** oversees student programs and services for both undergraduate and graduate students. The president of SGA serves on the Board of Trustees and is the official voice of the student body.

**As an advisor, what do I need to know about this resource?**

Understanding the institutional structure can help advisors resolve any supervisory issues as well as place a context for the overall reporting structure of the University. Most advisor positions are located with a specific college. Each college is allotted academic freedom to decide how advisors are to be utilized and thus may differ from college to college.

**Web links**

http://uksga.org/
http://www.uky.edu/Trustees/
http://www.uky.edu/President/
http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/
http://www.uky.edu/staffsenate/
http://www.uky.edu/regs/gr.htm