

29.4.2026

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Title

Assessing the role and structure of academic senates in Canadian universities, 2000 - 2012 / Lea Pennock ...

Publication year

2015

Source/Footnote

In: Higher education. - 70 (2015) 3, S. 503 - 518

Inventory number

38749

Keywords

Ausland : Kanada : einzelne Hochschulen ; Hochschule : Verwaltung allgemein

Abstract

Academic governance is an important dimension of institutional self-governance. This paper reports on the findings of a new study of university senates (academic councils) in Canadian universities in order to analyze changes in structure and in senate members' perceptions of the structure and role of senates over the last decade. Following the basic design of a similar study in 2000, this study reveals that there have been modest changes to the structure and organizational arrangements of many Canadian university senates over the last 10 years, including the rationalization and reform of the committee structures at many institutions. Findings of the study suggest the importance of senate orientation programming, the need for better oversight and assessment of academic quality, some confusion or ambiguity about the respective roles of board, senate and the administration, and continuing controversy about the proper role of the senate in strategic planning, financial, research, and fund-raising issues and activities. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Jones, Glen A., E-Mail: gjones@oise.utoronto.ca