



University of Denver

Governance and the Importance of Community

**Cheryl D. Lovell.
College of Education**

My remarks today are critically focused on the role of “community” on the postsecondary campus. I would like to make some observations about institutional governance and offer an opinion as to where I think we are here at DU in respect to shared governance. My thoughts and observations are related to what we are experiencing here at DU and also reflect issues much broa

We would not be here today if we took our role in university decision making seriously and maintained a sustained commitment to it and to our obligations to one another. We should ask ourselves if a community were present at DU (the kind Boyer notes) would there have existed more concern about the external media than to our own colleagues? A community of engaged scholars would not have allowed that kind of rationale to be used for not including us in key decisions. It would not have taken place... much less an admitted strate

made in the most recent edition of the Faculty Forum. He made a specific proposal to strengthen UPAC, and though I am not supporting his specific proposal, I am not advocating that, but I am suggesting that we have to strengthen UPAC. We have to strengthen the role of UPAC and involve all decision makers and their proposals in the campus-wide planning process. I would suggest that we not consider a campus-wide planning system that allows other key decisions to be made that have not been proposed, debated, discussed, shared, reviewed by UPAC. I would ask that our Trustees routinely inquire of each major proposal “who was involved”? “What process was followed”? If our Trustees require that each key campus decision brought before them demonstrate the broadest range of campus involvement, it would assure each of us that our opinions and input matter. At the same time, I would ask each of our top administrators to stop and check to make sure every major proposal that you want to take to the Trustees have campus-wide input. UPAC members come from across the campus and represent a good attempt to seek cross-sectional participation and its decisions and recommendations are intended to serve as our only campus-wide planning body. We need to systemically support and require campus-wide issues to UPAC for thoughtful deliberations.

University Governance and its Moral Context

**Sandra Lee Dixon
Department of Religious Studies**

Moral life is a process

Fortunately, we are not the first to inquire into the good life. From previous inquiries I will highlight several guiding thoughts that I believe moral philosophy would strongly urge us to wrestle with as we strive toward an ethical governance system for the University of Denver. They are (1) the fact of moral life as a social enterprise affecting the organization of institutions and including public intelligibility as a condition of just social arrangements; (2) the notion that both those who govern and those who are governed have souls that are affected by

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How we work on all of these issues together will affect how our moral lives grow in each other's company. Ethical issues are always ones that can be s

John Rawls, A Theory of Justice (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Belknap Press, 1971), pp. 55-56. See also Rawls' following paragraph for strategies within institutions and how the institutions should be designed to take them into considerations.

Annette Baier, while explicitly challenging the extent of Rawls' ideas of contract as a basis for just social relations, affirms th, affirm

book (especially if it comes from our nearest competitor—
“it’s derivative,” we sniff as we look down our noses), but
there’s the point. If the material is old, publishing it is
falling down on the job.

¹⁵ Rawls, A Theory of Justice, pp. 56, 195-197.

¹⁶ Here is the fuller quotation:

The other conception of rules I will call the
practice conception. On this view rules are pictured
as defining a practice.









¹⁹ See pp. 188-191. I take it that my inclusion of McIntyre, in addition to Rawls, Baier, and Williams, will round out the picture of a convergence of diverse moral viewpoints on the ethical topics I advance for consideration.