

Homewood Academic Council

The Homewood Academic Council (HAC) was the principal body of shared university governance between the Krieger and Whiting Schools. It was first convened by Daniel Coit Gilman, president from 1876 to 1908. The principle of shared governance recognizes the interdependence of the university's board of trustees, president and senior administration, its faculty and its students.

Given their specialized training and experience, faculty are distinctly positioned to exercise academic review in their areas of expertise. HAC was a body for exercising that expertise. The membership included two members from the Social Sciences, three from the Humanities, three from the Natural Sciences, and four from the School of Engineering. The Provost, Dean and Vice Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Dean and Vice Dean of Engineering were members of the Academic Council without voting privileges. The formulation of the HAC's responsibilities was known as the "Presidential charge to HAC," articulated in seven parts:

- First, HAC reviewed all candidates for faculty appointments and promotions and voted on the appointments it approves (i.e. recommended appointments to the President and Board of Trustees).
- Second, HAC reviewed all proposals for new degrees and new majors and minors in the Krieger and Whiting Schools and considered all matters of curricular and instructional policy that had a significant bearing on the quality of the schools' academic programs.
- Third, HAC conducted periodic reviews of all departments in the Krieger and Whiting Schools; as well as area-studies centers and programs involved in teaching.
- Fourth, HAC could advise the Deans, the Provost and the President on academically important questions of institutional policy and strategy.
- Fifth, HAC reviewed all candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and recommended the awarding of this degree.
- Sixth, HAC considered cases of alleged academic misconduct, faculty discipline, and appeals from negative promotion decisions.
- Seventh, HAC could advise the administration regarding academic grievances.