Traits of Effective Senates

__Permanent office space, files, archives
__Annual budget (travel, telephone, computer, supplies, etc.)
__Secretarial assistance
__Adjusted workload for officers
__Regular meetings with college president
__Consulted on creation of all non-senate committees
__Senate president (faculty officer) presides at senate meetings.
__Bylaws specify areas where senate decisions are normally determinative, co-determinative, or advisory
__Meetings and activities advertised in advance and records of actions widely published
__Attracts both junior and senior faculty who are esteemed as academic leaders
__Is regarded by the campus as dealing with crucial issues
__Has effective representation on other key governance groups
__Senate leadership visible in the ceremonial and symbolic affairs of the campus
__Initiates a major portion of its agenda items
__Defends the core values of academic freedom, determines curriculum
__Provides an effective forum for controversial issues
__Is seen as an agent for necessary institutional change
__Grounds its practices in parliamentary procedure and published and endorsed principles of governance

Participants at sessions of the AAHE National Network of Faculty Senates during the past twelve years have developed and refined these traits. Please let us know of additional traits you think are essential.

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