

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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The Chronicle Review

From the issue dated May 30, 2003

SEARCH:

Go

Advanced Search

Site Map

SECTIONS:

Front Page

Today's News

Information Technology

Teaching

Publishing

Money

Government & Politics

Community Colleges

Science Students

Athletics

International

People

Events

The Chronicle Review

Jobs

FEATURES:

Colloquy

Colloquy Live

Magazines & Journals

New Grant Competitions

Facts & Figures

Issues in Depth

Site Sampler

CHRONICLE IN PRINT:

This Week's Issue

Back Issues

Related Materials

SERVICES:

About The Chronicle

How to Contact Us

How to Register

How to Subscribe

Subscriber Services

Change Your User Name Change Your Password

Forgot Your Password?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The President and Provost Working in Tandem

To the Editor:

Your April 25 story "More Power for Provosts" correctly reflects a national trend but leaves largely unexplored the real and potential effects of such a trend in colleges and universities. ...

With shared authority for almost all levels, the president-provost scheme eliminates one important level for recourse in the case of a provost's misconduct, thus reducing the level of protection for the aggrieved party; increases the risk of trustees' receiving only one view of the institution's situation, thus reducing the level of accountability for both officers; and allows provosts to meddle in day-to-day financial affairs, for which they are rarely prepared. ...

The best way to prevent those problems is for our institutions of higher education to develop mechanisms that protect against the abuse of power and encourage direct communication between faculty and staff members and students on one hand, and the board of trustees on the other.

Aldemaro Romero

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