

A COMPARISON OF UNIVERSITY GOVERNING BOARDS

With the exception of the ex officio members, the remainder of the members of the twenty-two boards, or approximately 52 per cent, are elected in some manner. A breakdown by type of election may be seen in Table 8-A. Worthy

Table 8-A
Selection According to Total Number of Members

<i>Methods of Selection</i>	<i>Number of Members</i>	<i>Percentage of Total</i>
Appointed by governor	143	40%
Elected by popular vote	31	8
Elected by state legislature	126	35
Elected by alumni	15	4
Elected by special group	17	5
Ex officio	30	8
Total	362	100%

of note is the large number, 126 (or 35 per cent of board members), elected by state legislatures. North Carolina, with its 100 legislatively-elected members and a board three times as large as the next largest state university board, greatly increases this percentage. Also noteworthy is that four boards, in the states of Illinois, Michigan, and Nebraska, select trustees by popular vote.

Election by the state legislature, as seen in Table 8-B, is used in choosing

Table 8-B
Selection Policy According to Board

<i>Methods of Selection*</i>	<i>Number of Boards</i>	<i>Percentage of Total</i>
Appointed	13	59%
Elected by popular vote	4	18
Elected by legislature	3	14
Elected by special group	2	9
Total	22	100%

* Many of these boards have a minority of members selected in one or more of several different ways. Each board was categorized, however, on the basis of the method of selection of the majority of its members.

the members of only three (or 14 per cent) of the twenty-two institutional boards examined. In terms of the type of board, it is interesting to note that 73 per cent of the governing-coordinating boards (of which the University of North Carolina Board is one) employ the appointive method for selection of all or some part of their board.

The last of the six methods of selection is ex officio membership. Ex officio members constitute 8 per cent of the total board membership and are found on 50 per cent of the twenty-two institutional boards examined. Ten per cent more of the governing-coordinating boards have ex officio members than do the governing boards. The six Southern boards have the highest percentage, with ex officio members on 66 per cent of them.

It is apparent that little unanimity exists as to the best method of selecting trustees. Perhaps the lack of uniformity reflects what should be obvious: Each system has evolved from a political, economic, and educational background peculiar to its state. Perhaps this explains why Moos and Rourke, in a study of public institutions of higher education and American state governments, report that "an overwhelming majority of regents in favor of the method by which their own boards were selected."⁸ Nevertheless, Martorana and Hollis recommend from their study on state boards, that "the appointive process produces a better quality of interest and balance of background experience among board members than does the elective process."⁹

⁸ M. MOOS & F. ROURKE. *THE CAMPUS AND THE STATE* 304 (1959).

⁹ MARTORANA & HOLLIS, *supra* note 4, at 29.