

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

What Is an AI Governance Committee? Roles, Membership, and How It Works

An AI governance committee gives an organization a clear place to make difficult decisions about artificial intelligence. The best committees do not slow every project or approve every tool. They establish the rules, assign accountability, review the uses that carry the greatest risk, and make sure someone has the authority to act when AI goes wrong.

IN THIS BRIEF

- What is an AI governance committee?
- Why organizations create one
- What should the committee be responsible for?
- What the committee should not do
- Who should serve on it?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Artificial intelligence rarely fits neatly inside one department. A new system may create privacy questions for legal, security questions for the CISO, fairness questions for compliance, data-quality questions for the data team, operational questions for the business, and reputational questions for senior leadership. If each group evaluates only its own piece, the organization can miss the risk created by the system as a whole.

An AI governance committee connects those perspectives. It creates a repeatable way to decide whether an AI use should proceed, what safeguards it needs, who owns the remaining risk, and when a concern must move to an executive or the board.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- An AI governance committee is a cross-functional decision and escalation body, not a substitute for day-to-day ownership.
- Its central job is to decide who may accept which AI risks, under what conditions, and with what evidence.
- Core members usually represent business leadership, legal, compliance, risk, privacy, security, data, and technology.
- Not every AI use needs committee approval. Risk tiers and delegated authority keep routine decisions moving.
- A useful committee produces decisions, owners, deadlines, and records. A committee that only discusses risk is not governing it.

WHAT THIS BRIEF COVERS

What is an AI governance committee?. An AI governance committee is a cross-functional body that oversees how an organization develops, buys, deploys, and uses artificial intelligence.

Why organizations create one. Many organizations begin with an AI policy.

What should the committee be responsible for?. The committee recommends or approves the governance structure: which policies apply, how AI systems enter the inventory, how risk is classified, which reviews are required, who may approve each risk tier, and what evidence must be preserved.

What the committee should not do.

Who should serve on it?. The committee should be small enough to make decisions and broad enough to recognize risks that no single function can see.

Committee, working group, management, or board?. In a smaller organization, these layers may be combined.

Use risk tiers to keep decisions moving. A committee should approve the risk-classification method and the authority attached to each tier.

What should be in the committee charter?. The charter should state clearly that committee approval does not transfer responsibility away from the system owner.

How a good meeting works. The committee should receive a short, standardized decision package before the meeting.

How often should it meet?. A new governance program may need meetings every two weeks while it builds the inventory, risk tiers, policies, and review process.

What should the committee measure?. Good metrics show whether the governance system is working, not merely how busy the committee is.

The first 90 days.

Common ways committees fail. The committee raises concerns but cannot require action.

What if the organization is small?. A small nonprofit, public agency, school, or business does not need to imitate the committee structure of a global bank.

How the committee fits leading frameworks. The NIST AI RMF does not require every organization to establish a committee with a specific name.

The bottom line. An AI governance committee should make responsible AI easier to operate, not harder to understand.

Read the full guide at ai-governance-jobs.com/grc-careers-insights/what-is-an-ai-governance-committee/
Executive Brief · AI Governance Essentials · Source: ai-governance-jobs.com