

ACEG ADVISORY | AI GOVERNANCE SERIES

AI Tiger Teams: A Quick-Start Guide

Why cross-functional AI governance can't wait, and how to start it

3-minute read | By Pat Poitevin, CEO, ACEG Advisory | Updated July 2026

AI is already working inside your organization. It is screening candidates, drafting client emails, flagging transactions, and summarizing contracts, often with no formal approval, no named owner, and no one tracking where it lives.

The real question is no longer whether your organization uses AI. It's whether anyone is governing it. Most aren't, and the gap between AI deployment and AI accountability is exactly where risk quietly accumulates.

88% of organizations use AI in at least one function <i>McKinsey, Nov 2025</i>	51% had at least one negative AI-related incident in the past year <i>McKinsey, Nov 2025</i>	40% will suffer a shadow AI incident by 2030 <i>Gartner, Nov 2025</i>	26% have comprehensive AI governance policies in place <i>WEF & Accenture, Sept 2025</i>
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Four Forces Making This Urgent

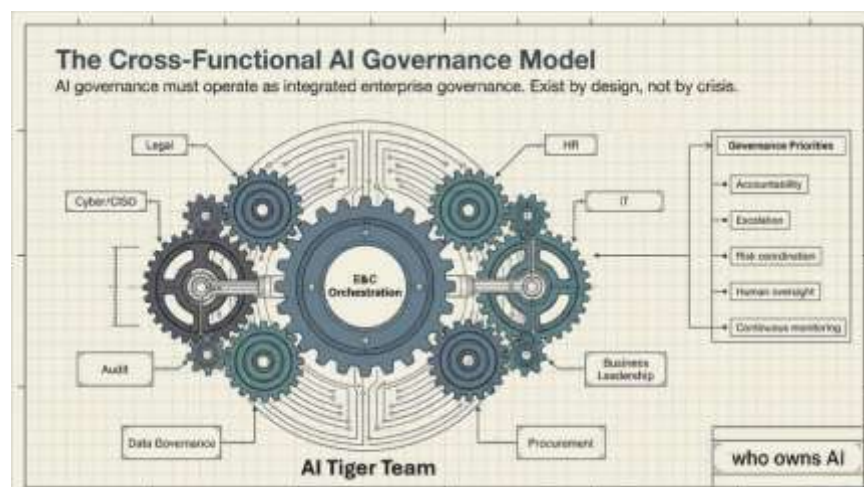
- **Acceleration.** AI is moving from machine learning to generative to agentic. Each step adds speed, autonomy, and governance difficulty.
- **Governance lag.** Organizations are adopting AI faster than they're defining ownership, oversight, and controls.
- **Shadow AI.** Employees are already using unapproved AI tools on sensitive and regulated data, right now, without anyone deciding that should happen.
- **Agentic AI.** AI is shifting from assisting people to acting on their behalf. Every autonomous action is a decision with no named human owner unless governance says otherwise.

What Is an AI Tiger Team?

An AI Tiger Team is an enterprise-level cross-functional AI governance committee that brings the functions most affected by AI (Ethics and Compliance, Legal, IT, Cybersecurity, HR, Internal Audit, Data Governance, and Finance) under one shared mandate: ensure AI is selected, deployed, monitored, and governed responsibly.

It doesn't build or manage AI systems. It governs how AI is selected, approved, deployed, and held accountable, and it keeps a living inventory of every AI tool in use, including the ones nobody officially approved.

The team IS ✓ An enterprise accountability and oversight function ✓ A cross-functional governance structure ✓ A risk-based approval and review process ✓ A mechanism to scale AI responsibly	The team is NOT ✗ A technical development team ✗ A replacement for IT security review ✗ A substitute for legal advice ✗ A bureaucracy that reviews every low-risk use
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Why This Pays for Itself

A cross-functional AI governance team isn't a brake on innovation. It's the mechanism that lets AI scale responsibly, and it pays off across four areas at once:

- Risk avoided: fewer AI incidents, less privacy exposure, fewer audit findings, reduced litigation and cyber risk.
- Value enabled: responsible AI approved faster, better decision support, new business opportunities.
- Efficiency gained: fewer duplicate tools, faster use case review, less rework and crisis management.
- Trust protected: employee, customer, regulator, board, insurer, and auditor confidence, all harder to rebuild than to keep.

The insurance angle boards don't always see coming

Cyber, E&O, and D&O carriers are already asking whether you have an AI governance policy, an AI inventory, and documented human oversight in renewal questionnaires. Organizations that can't answer yes, with evidence, face coverage exclusions, higher premiums, or declined renewals. A governance team is what generates that evidence before you need it.

Five Practical Ways to Start

1

Secure an executive sponsor first. Without one, the team can't compel cross-functional participation and stalls in month one.

2

Put E&C at the table as chair or co-chair, explicitly. E&C already owns regulatory literacy, risk assessment, and accountability design. Say so out loud.

3

Name the roster before your first meeting: Legal, IT, Cybersecurity, HR, Internal Audit, Data Governance, Finance, and one business sponsor, at minimum.

4

Run a rapid AI inventory in the first 30 days. Frame it as governance, not an audit, or you'll get incomplete answers.

5

Govern by risk tier, not by instinct. A meeting-notes summarizer and an AI tool influencing credit or hiring decisions don't belong in the same review queue.

Get the Full Activation Guide

This guide is a preview of ACEG's complete AI Cross-Functional Governance Activation Guide. The full version includes:

- ✓ The full business case, ROI model, and board-ready talking points
- ✓ Regulatory and insurance exposure detail, mapped by framework
- ✓ A committee charter template, with a completed sample
- ✓ A first meeting agenda, use case intake form, and risk triage tool
- ✓ A decision authority matrix, cybersecurity checklist, and KPI menu

Request the full guide from info@acegadvisory.com or visit www.acegadvisory.com.

ACEG Advisory helps ethics and compliance leaders build, chair, and sustain cross-functional AI governance. Adapted from ACEG's AI Cross-Functional Governance Activation.