

Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS)

Statement of Shared Governance

Revised 9/13/10

Definition of Shared Governance:

Shared Governance is the participation of administrators, faculty, staff and students in the decisions and policy-making process to promote the institutional vision and mission, academic integrity and sustainability of the dynamic academic environment while retaining public accountability.

Statement of the Purpose of Shared Governance:

The purpose of shared governance in an academic institution of higher education is to provide shared responsibility for quality improvement and productivity through the creation of a partnership between faculty and academic administrators, the president, and the governing board based on mutual respect and collaboration. Such shared responsibility entails working toward mutual goals to embrace a unified vision established by a fully enfranchised intellectual community. Shared governance involves collaborative efforts to fulfill and fully execute the institutional mission by participating in matters including:

1. the identification of priorities,
2. the development of policy,
3. defining responsibility for ethical leadership,
4. enhanced community partnerships, and
5. the governance of the academic institution as a whole.

Statement of Necessary Components of Shared Governance:

(1) Stakeholders: Shared governance requires shared responsibilities among stakeholders whose roles or involvement include shaping, executing, and realizing the vision and mission of the academic institution, preserving academic freedom, academic integrity, students successes and public accountability for the institution. Therefore, shared governance in an academic institution, requires engaging faculty, academic administrators including the provost, associate deans, deans, chairs, the president, governing board, and a combination of any or all entities herein and students as applicable.

(2) Initiation of Shared Governance Actions: Initiation of ideas and academic needs evolve from various stakeholders; as such, the decision-making authority varies based on which stakeholder bears the responsibility of leadership in resolving the given cause being addressed. Those leading the charge must involve other stakeholders to assure that the institutional need and mission are met without jeopardizing any aspect of institutional services or responsibilities.

(3) Responsible Parties and Decision Ownership: Stakeholder contributions and roles vary based on the charge, role and party responsible for implementing resolutions. Stakeholder make decisions, share decision making or provide, recommendations or make endorsements based on the ownership of the situation.

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September 13, 2010