Resolution regarding Revised Shared Governance Principles
Approved 5/3/12

The FSC approved the following revision to the Shared Governance Principle on Consultation to take into account concerns raised by the Administration (via Diana Yu, Bonnie Brier and Carol Morrow) at their April 4, 2012 meeting with FSC Senators Ted Magder, Christine Harrington and Warren Jelinek.

Original Version of Shared Governance Principle, May 10, 2011

3. Consultation

WHEREAS: Shared governance means seeking and evaluating faculty input before decisions that affect faculty are made and adequately responding to faculty input,

IT IS RESOLVED: That when a decision is not pressing, a reasonable length of time for consultation must be provided (i.e., during semesters this means a few weeks in order to have at least one FSC meeting). During the summer when FSC is not in session, decisions should be postponed. If a decision is absolutely necessary during the period when the FSC is not in session, then all efforts must be made to communicate with the FSC Executive Committee, who will take appropriate actions to inform all Senators.

Revised Version of Shared Governance Principle, May 3, 2012

3. Consultation

WHEREAS: Consultation is a means to obviate potential crises of confidence that can occur when a decision-making group within an organization unilaterally imposes its decisions on the organization, and

WHEREAS: The quality and effectiveness of academic policy making depends on consultation between informed faculty representatives and the other principals in the University’s decision-making process, and

WHEREAS: Shared governance means seeking and evaluating faculty input before decisions that affect faculty are made and adequately responding to faculty input,

IT IS RESOLVED: That when a decision is not pressing, a reasonable length of time for consultation must be provided. During semesters, this means at least a few weeks in order for at least one FSC meeting to occur. For decisions that must occur during the summer, when FSC is not in session, the FSC will establish, before its last meeting of the spring semester, an internal structure for timely consultation and input to administration decisions that affect the faculty.
Revised Shared Governance Principles:

A. There are 5 basic features of shared governance:

1. Representation

WHEREAS: Shared governance means that input from the faculties’ duly elected representatives (FSC) is central to the process of “consulting with faculty”,

IT IS RESOLVED: That the Faculty’s Senate Council will have representatives, selected by the FSC, on University Committees, Taskforces, or other like bodies dealing with all matters that affect faculty and university policy.

2. Information

BACKGROUND: The Faculty Senators’ Council functions as the personnel committee for the faculty. As such, it is obligated to represent the faculty’s interest in dealing with the administration, and to insure that the faculty is informed on issues that pertain to them and impact their well-being. It has been common practice by the administration to impose a rule requiring confidentiality with respect to deliberations on certain topics, such as, but not limited to, benefits. This practice is referred to as “deliberative privilege”.

WHEREAS: This practice prevents the faculty from obtaining timely knowledge concerning issues that affect them, and

WHEREAS: This practice prevents the administration from obtaining valuable feedback from the FSC, and when appropriate, from the entire faculty,

IT IS RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senators’ Council does not support the practice of a code of confidentiality, also known as “deliberative privilege”, except in cases concerning information specific to individuals, whose privacy rights transcend the need for transparency, and cases involving university negotiating positions with external financial entities.

3. Consultation

WHEREAS: Consultation is a means to obviate potential crises of confidence that can occur when a decision-making group within an organization unilaterally imposes its decisions on the organization, and

WHEREAS: The quality and effectiveness of academic policy making depends on consultation between informed faculty representatives and the other principals in the University’s decision-making process, and

WHEREAS: Shared governance means seeking and evaluating faculty input before decisions that affect faculty are made and adequately responding to faculty input,

IT IS RESOLVED: That when a decision is not pressing, a reasonable length of time for consultation must be provided. During semesters, this means at least a few weeks in order for at least one FSC meeting to occur. For decisions that must occur during the summer, when FSC is not in session, the FSC will establish, before its last meeting of the spring semester, an internal structure for timely consultation and input to administration decisions that affect the faculty.

4. Reasoned Justifications

WHEREAS: Accountability is an important element of the consultation process,

IT IS RESOLVED: That when FSC advice is not taken, the Administration will provide, in writing, its reasons for not accepting the FSC’s advice developed through the process of consultation.
5. Communications

WHEREAS: Access to information is fundamental to policymaking,

IT IS RESOLVED: That FSC Senators will circulate, through their Schools and departments, the agreement FSC worked out with the Administration (see Memo from Provost McLaughlin, 3/3/2011), which allows Senators access to email addresses of all faculty for the purpose of communicating with the faculty (their constituents).

IT IS RESOLVED: That FSC Senators are obligated to keep their respective faculty informed on an ongoing basis.