

Statement of Shared Governance Resolution

Preamble

Governance is the name commonly given to the processes by which the faculty and staff participate in the expression and exercise of their authority and responsibility in support of the University at Buffalo. It is most often accomplished within the context of what we called “shared governance,” a distribution of authority to various campus and system constituencies based upon law and its mandates.

Shared governance must be a process as well as a goal. It requires an ongoing commitment from all, in order to be achieved. Campus governance members must make use of many strategies to listen to, inform, and involve their constituents. University and campus presidents and other administrators responsible for the management of their institutions recognize that the health and vigor of the college or university depend fundamentally upon the vitality, creativity, intelligence, and commitment of academic and professional staff.

Whereas, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers have declared “Shared governance is the foundation of higher education in the United States” and

Whereas, civic service by academic and professional staff to the university at the campus level or at the State-wide level are critical to the collective thought, collective effort and common cause of democratic participation, and

Whereas, the Middle States Accreditation, Standard 4 Leadership and Governance, reads “The Commission on Higher Education expects a climate of shared collegial governance in which all constituencies (such as faculty, administration, staff, students, and governing board members) involved in carrying out the institutional mission and goals participate in the governance function in a manner appropriate to that institution; and

Whereas, collaboration between faculty, staff, students, administration and governing boards is essential in carrying out the vision of shared governance,

Therefore be it resolved:

The Faculty Senate and the Professional Staff Senate, in the spirit of shared governance, will inculcate the values of trust, collegiality, dialogue, sharing perspectives, listening, shared sense of purpose, recognizing differences while remaining open to finding common ground, transparency of information, and

Therefore be it also resolved, The Offices of University Governance, aka the Offices of the Professional Staff Senate and the Faculty Senate will be known as the “Offices of University Shared Governance: Faculty Senate and Professional Staff Senate”.