

Shared Governance Guidelines and Process
UW System Faculty and Academic Staff Representatives
June 2008

Background:

The respective responsibilities of the Board of Regents, the UW System President, Chancellors, Faculty, Academic Staff, and Students arise from the longstanding Wisconsin tradition of shared governance. This system of shared governance, as it is commonly understood and practiced within the UW System, is based on the premise that the above-mentioned parties all contribute to the leadership of the System and the understanding that inclusiveness leads to better decision-making. This tradition calls for a process of Regent and UW System policy development that includes faculty, academic staff, and students, as appropriate to the nature of the policy. Effective policy development comes from early, active, and wide collaboration and consultation. The purpose of this document is to establish workable guidelines for the process of shared governance at the System/Board of Regents level.

The UW System Faculty Representatives Advisory Council and the UW System Academic Staff Representatives Council are liaison groups that exist to make communication as seamless as possible between and among the Board of Regents, UW System Administration, and governance groups at each UW System institution. They are not official governance bodies.

Recognizing the role of the Board of Regents, the UW System President, Chancellors, and Students in shared governance, the following guidelines are intended to outline the involvement of Faculty and Academic Staff as Regent and UW System policies are developed.

Guidelines:

Faculty and Academic Staff governance should be included early in the process of developing Regent and UW System policies in the following areas:

Personnel Policies (for example, and without limitation by enumeration, UWS Unclassified Personnel Guidelines; related personnel policies that pertain to both Faculty and Academic Staff roles and rewards; and Faculty and Academic Staff compensation & benefits policies)

Academic Policies (for example, and without limitation by enumeration, curriculum, admission, retention, and graduation policies; and program review policies)

The UW System and the Board of Regents will actively consult with the UWS Academic Staff and Faculty Representatives to identify appropriate individuals to serve on committees, working groups and/or task forces, where faculty and/or academic staff input may be indicated.

Process:

This document describes a process of liaison between governance groups that fosters effective and broad collaboration and consultation. The primary channels of communication are between the Board of Regents President, the UW System President, and the UW System Faculty Representatives Advisory Council and the UW System Academic Staff Representatives Council. System and Board of Regents level shared governance items will be brought to the full Faculty & Academic Staff Representatives Advisory Councils at their respective meetings and/or disseminated via UWS System maintained email listservs for both councils. The UW System President will designate a position in System Administration to facilitate such communication.

Whenever practical, the members of the UW System Faculty Representatives Advisory Council and UW System Academic Staff Representatives Council will be the chairs (or their designees, from among members) of the executive faculty and academic staff governance bodies of each campus. The members of the Councils will be relied upon to provide timely communication to and responses from their respective governance bodies.