Resolution 2019-2020-23 Shared University Governance

Whereas, collegiality in academic governance at the University of Central Florida is best accomplished by embracing the philosophy of shared governance which establishes the ethos and the structures that enable divergent ideas to be placed on the table, debated for their merits, shaped for the larger good of the University community, and put to use in a timely manner; and

Whereas, shared governance is the keystone that enables trustees, administrators, and faculty to sustain and advance the University’s mission, effectiveness, and reputation; and

Whereas, shared governance is the process by which these constituencies share responsibility and accountability for reaching decisions on University policies and procedures; and

Whereas, shared governance was codified in the “Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities,” a statement jointly formulated in 1966 by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB); and

Whereas, the long-term goal of shared governance is to create an academic community based on open communication, accountability, and mutual respect for best advancing the University’s vision, mission, and strategy; therefore

Be it resolved that shared governance at the University of Central Florida:

- Refers to the broad participation of trustees, administrators, and faculty sharing responsibility for governing and operating the University;

- Is a responsibility and a privilege, not a burden, and that it should be recognized, valued, and supported with appropriate resources;

- Depends on a system of mutual accountability in implementing University policies and procedures; and

Be it further resolved that the University of Central Florida Faculty Senate affirms and endorses the attached UCF Statement of Shared Governance Principles; and

Be it further resolved that the University of Central Florida Faculty Senate calls upon trustees and administrators to affirm and endorse the attached UCF Statement of Shared Governance Principles.
Shared governance is defined as meaningful participation by trustees, administrators, and faculty in sharing institutional responsibility and accountability in all steps of the process of reaching decisions on University policies and procedures.

Shared governance does not mean that all decisions are made by consensus or that all ideas have merit or will be implemented; rather, shared governance promotes the opportunities for trustees, administrators, and faculty to share input.

1. Shared governance at UCF should be effective, as construed in the following ways:
   a. It must be proactive in initiating needed and/or beneficial changes on the campus, while permitting trustees, administrators, and faculty to react to external and strategic imperatives as they arise;
   b. It must be responsive to the needs of trustees, administrators, and faculty in guiding the University to meet day-to-day and long-term challenges and opportunities;
   c. It must be efficient, permitting the timely execution of campus and university initiatives; and
   d. It must be worthwhile for its participants, so that they can see and appreciate the fruits of their labor, and recognize their roles and those of others as valuable to the process and outcome of governance at the University.

2. Shared governance at UCF requires legitimacy, as established by the following:
   a. It must be firmly rooted in the UCF Faculty Senate Constitution and the principles and standards articulated there;
   b. It must be representative of trustees, administrators, and faculty, with clear lines of responsibility and communication between representatives and their constituencies;
   c. It must permit deliberation on all matters of import to the University, so that the full, diverse range of faculty opinions may be heard and incorporated into the campus response; and
   d. It must be inclusive, so that minority constituencies and opinions are accorded appropriate respect; and
   e. It must be accountable to the trustees, administrators, faculty, and University community for actions taken and not taken, and the consequences thereof.

3. Shared governance at UCF requires investment:
   a. By individuals, in familiarizing themselves with issues and understanding them in national, state, and University-wide contexts; and
   b. By the University, in material resources and in leadership development.

These principles are consistent with the “Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities” formulated by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB).

Approved by the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance on February 24, 2020.
Approved by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee on March 5, 2020.