

To: The University Senate
From: Educational Policy Committee
University Resources Policy Committee
Subject: Statement on shared governance at Purdue-West Lafayette
Reference: 1. [SD 16-26, “Fort Wayne Senate Statement on Shared Governance”](#) Purdue-Fort Wayne Senate
2. [“Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities,”](#) American Association of University Professors

Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption

Rationale: This document draws inspiration and text from Purdue-Fort Wayne Senate Document 16-26 [1].

Meaningful shared governance involves the Faculty, the Board of Trustees, and the administration working together for the betterment of the university.

Legitimate differences of opinion exist as to what does and does not constitute meaningful shared governance.

Differences of opinion regarding what shared governance is and the processes involved can result in distrust among stakeholders.

Adoption of a statement on shared governance that is agreed to and adhered to by the Faculty, the Board, and the administration, can prevent future breaches and help to restore trust between these parties.

The “Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities” [2] was jointly formulated by the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB). In 1966, both ACE and AGB commended the Statement to member organizations. Purdue University is a member of both ACE and AGB.

The Statement on Government recognizes that “joint effort” of the administration, the Board, and the Faculty yields “increased capacity to solve educational problems.” The statement defines “joint effort” as comprising two ideas:

1. “important areas of action involve at one time or another the initiating capacity and decision-making participation of all the institutional components, and
2. “differences in the weight of each voice, from one point to the next, should be determined by reference to the responsibility of each component for the particular matter at hand, as developed hereinafter.”

While the Statement recognizes the “final institutional authority” of the Board, it also defines the primary responsibilities of the Board, the President (and as they delegate their authority, to the administration writ large), and the Faculty, noting how the Board normally “entrusts the conduct of administration to the administrative officers—the president and the deans—and the conduct of teaching and research to the faculty. The statement articulates areas of faculty primacy, and notes that “the governing board and president should, [... in] matters where the faculty has primary responsibility, concur with the faculty judgment except in rare instances and for compelling reasons which should be stated in detail.”

Proposal:

The University Senate adopts the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) “Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities” [2] as the authoritative working document outlining the Principle’s of shared governance, and the starting reference for all conversations about shared governance at Purdue-West Lafayette.

The University Senate requests that Purdue administration and Board of Trustees meet with comprehensive Senate leadership (including standing committee chairs) to better understand this statement with the goal of joint acceptance.

Educational Policy Committee Votes:

For:

Faculty

Todor Cooklev
Jennifer Freeman
Eric Kvam
Erik Otárola-Castillo
Alice Pawley
Libby Richards
John Sheffield
Thomas Siegmund
Jeffrey X. Watt

Students

Janelle Grant
Olivia Wyrick

Advisors

Jeff Elliott

Against:

Faculty

Thomas Brush

Abstained:

Faculty

Antônio Sá Barreto

Advisors

Keith Gehres
Jenna Rickus
Jeffery Stefancic

Absent:

Faculty

Li Qiao
Vanessa Quinn

Students

Elli DiDonna

Ex-Officio (non-voting):

Jaelyn Palm
John Pearson

University Resources Policy Committee Votes:

For:

Faculty

Eugene Chan
James Greenan
Janice Kritchevsky
Doug LaCount
Juan Sesmero
Ann Weil
Yuan Yao

Against:

Faculty

John McConnell

Abstained:

Faculty

Tony Vyn
Laura Claxon

Absent:

Faculty

Victor Chen
Lori Hoagland
Cara Kinnally
Lin Nan

Advisors

Michael Cline
Carl Krieger

Students

Austin Berenda
Sophie Braun
Neha Shokelly