

To: The University Senate
From: Concerned Senators: Birgit Kaufmann, David Koltick, Oana Malis
Subject: Attempt at Dissolution of the Purdue University Senate
Reference: www.purdue.edu/provost/faculty/initiatives/senate.php
Shared Governance: A Practical Approach to Reshaping Professional Nursing Practice ©2006 HCPro, Inc..
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption
Rationale: There is an attempt by a “task force” to replace the Purdue University Senate by a University Council based on a breach of trust and misinterpretation of “shared governance”.

In its simplest form, “shared governance” is shared decision making based on the principles of partnership, equity, accountability, and ownership at the point of service. This management process model empowers all members of an organization to have a voice in decision-making, thus encouraging diverse and creative input that will help advance ... missions of the organization. In essence, it makes every employee feel “part manager” with a stake in the success of the organization.

The breach of trust exists at numerous levels. (1) The “task force” is not representative of the mission responsibilities of the University. (2) To institutionalize a governance that usurps the fundamental educational authority of the faculty. (3) A rationale based on a highly biased survey system that claims anonymous input, but the data collection agency keeps and tracks identifiable responses. (4) The incorrect assumption that staff is not well represented by both CSSAC and MaPSAC. (5) The incorrect assumption that the undergraduate student body is not adequately represented by Purdue Student Government. (6) The incorrect assumption that the graduate student body is not adequately represented by Purdue Graduate Student Government. (7) A false narrative based on the “feeling” of inclusiveness in governance, when in fact governance will be highly limited and authoritarian. (8) Moreover, there is the appearance of the abuse of authority by a former Senate Chair who, having access to the Board of Trustees, used that access not to represent the Senate, but to set in motion a mechanism to dissolve the Senate.

Proposal:

Because the faculty are the point of service for both the educational and research goals of the University, and because the Senate represents the faculty and has the general power and responsibility to adopt policies, regulations, and procedures intended to achieve the educational objectives and the general welfare of those involved in these educational processes.

- (1) The Senate disavows the efforts of a “task force” to dissolve the Senate.
- (2) Further, the Provost’s sponsorship of the “task force” website will end.
- (3) The Faculty Affairs Committee will meet with the members of the “task force” to evaluate its motivations and make recommendations to the Senate of possible reforms to aid the faculty in its mission within the University.