

Submitted by: Co-Chairs of Presidential/Faculty Senate Joint Task Force on Shared Governance

Date: October 16, 2003 (as part of the Shared Governance Report)

Amended: November 4, 2003

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Resolution for Senate

1. Whereas the University of Florida Faculty Senate approved the following definition and purpose for consideration for inclusion in the Senate Constitution:

“Shared Governance” is the participation of administrators, faculty, staff and students in the decision- and policy-making process. The purpose of shared governance is to provide avenues to University improvement and productivity through the creation of a partnership based on mutual respect and collaboration. Such shared responsibility entails working toward mutual goals established by a fully enfranchised University community and therefore collaborative participation in: a) the identification of University priorities, b) the development of policy, c) defining the University’s responsibility for ethical leadership, d) enhanced community partnerships, and e) the governance of the University as a whole. (Adopted, Senate Meeting, April 26, 2000)

2. Whereas President Young, on May 2, 2003, gave the University community and the Joint Task Force his vision of shared governance:

As practiced at the leading American research universities, shared governance is a system of dual authority and responsibility, constitutionally created, in which certain decisions pertaining to university policy, rules, and procedures fall within the control of the faculty or an organization selected by and acting on their behalf.

Decisions pertaining to academic matters such as curriculum and degrees would be an appropriate example. Decisions in other policy areas that the governing body has delegated to administrative authority, but that have substantial impact on the academic enterprise are

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UF Senate Proposed Action Item

traditionally undertaken only after consultation with appropriate agencies of the faculty. Conversely, in making decisions that fall within their purview, senators are obligated to seek the counsel and advice of appropriate administrative officers. (President's update, May 2, 2003)

3. Whereas the Faculty Academic Advisory Committee, responsible for timely Faculty input into the development of policy in its formative state, resolved to advise the President on identifying issues in shared governance in which the Faculty may play a larger role and to recommend future structure and process (adopted, FAAC Meeting, March 6, 2003); and
4. Whereas the Presidential-Faculty Senate Task Force on Shared Governance and the Committee on Senate Structure and Effectiveness have reviewed policy and practice at peer and model peer institutions (Summer/Fall, 2003)
5. We, the Faculty Senate, as the representative body of the University of Florida Faculty, hereby resolve that President Young should request the Board of Trustees to endorse the principles of shared governance at the University of Florida on three levels.
 1. The Board of Trustees shall recognize and consider delegating through the President to the Faculty and its representative body, the Faculty Senate, the authority to determine (make final decisions) on certain matters, which shall be defined and agreed upon, relating to academic policy;
 2. The Board of Trustees shall recognize and consider delegating through the President to the Faculty and its representative body, the Faculty Senate, the authority to recommend (agree upon final decisions) certain matters and policy, which shall be defined and agreed upon, relating to the areas of Faculty Quality and Welfare, Planning, Budget and Resource allocation, Research and Scholarship, and Academic Facilities and Infrastructure. To recommend means to reach a decision jointly, such decision not to be overturned by the President without further discussion with the Faculty representatives and an effort to find a solution satisfactory to all members of the University of Florida.
 3. The Board of Trustees shall formally recognize the Faculty as a valuable source of advice to the Administration on other matters of interest to the quality of the University of Florida and that when sought, a justification of any outcome is communicated to the Faculty prior to any public announcements concerning any actions.

Approved:

Denied:

Withdrawn:

Returned for Revision: