

Jack Mecholsky's Statement

As a faculty member at UF for 18 years and at Penn State University for five years, I have witnessed many approaches to governance. The most monumental change that I have seen is the introduction of shared governance. Of course, introducing a concept is one thing - nurturing and incorporating it into the academia is quite a different matter. As a long time Senator, I can see that shared governance has not only become a viable concept, but also one that continues to mature, and takes responsibility for its mandate. It is because those before us have worked so hard to institutionalize faculty involvement, that makes me want to use my experience and diligence to continue this blueprint so that future generations at the University will look back at this watershed movement and wonder how the university system could have functioned without strong shared governance.

As a senator, I have served on several university and college committees, including the Senate Steering Committee, Academic Policy Council (past chair), and College of Engineering Faculty Council (past chair). Having served on these committees has given me a very good grasp of the issues confronting all faculty and how similar the faculty concerns are to one another. It has become clear that decisions made in one college affect all others as well. Thus, it is incumbent on the Senate to carefully consider all action items, since ultimately the repercussions of the decisions will impact the rest of academia.