

Shared Governance Statement

Successful universities are marked by close and healthy collaboration between faculty and administration. The complexity of current issues within higher education requires the multiplicity of perspective, diversity of approach and collective intellectual capacity that can only happen when shared governance flourishes. This statement affirms the central role of shared governance, and asserts that it is the most effective means by which our institution can respond efficiently and effectively to a continuously changing environment.

We understand shared governance, as formalized in Standing Orders 100 and 105 of the UC Board of Regents, to be those processes by which the Academic Senate and the Administration engage on matters of institutional policy and procedure. The Academic Senate determines admission standards and degree requirements and authorizes all courses and curricula. On each campus, the Chancellor has administrative authority, including organization, operation, and budget, with specific duties delegated to various administrative appointees. The Senate is authorized to advise each Chancellor on the campus budget and to lay before the Board of Regents “its views on any matter pertaining to the conduct and welfare of the University.”

The goal of shared governance is to collaborate on matters vital to the institution and its members, and to promote a shared understanding through deliberation and dialogue. Where disagreement remains, all parties are assured that their views were heard and considered. In practical terms, shared governance means that administration leaders seek input from the Senate leadership on major administrative matters, weigh that input carefully, and report back to the Senate on final decisions. Likewise, the Senate seeks input from the administration on proposed changes in admission criteria, curriculum, and degree requirements.

Senate leaders and administrators share the responsibility for assuring that governance and consultative procedures are arranged to promote efficient decision-making, and in so doing strive to avoid unnecessary delay, duplication of effort, or blurring of responsibility. Both the Academic Senate and the Administration recognize that there may be circumstances that mandate an expedited decision-making process. The need to pursue an expedited process, however, does not eliminate the responsibility to engage in deliberation, dialogue, and the consultative process to the extent feasible.