



Joint Statement on Shared Governance for the State University of New York

Introductory Statement

The following short summary on Shared Governance in the system has been prepared by the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC), the Student Assembly (SA) and the University Faculty Senate (UFS) to express the state of shared governance at the system level of the State University of New York. Shared governance has been instrumental in moving SUNY forward, especially in recent years when public higher education has endured many challenges.

Summary Statement on the Principles and Practice of Shared Governance in SUNY

SUNY Shared Governance refers to the structures and processes through which constituent groups, including the above governance organizations and the SUNY Board of Trustees, participate in the development of policies and decision-making that affect the institution. Collaboration, communication and collegiality are the hallmarks of shared governance within the SUNY System, the facilitation of which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. The president of the SA is a voting member of the SUNY Board of Trustees. The presidents of the FCCC and the UFS are currently non-voting members of the Board.
2. SUNY System Administration and the campuses contribute to the financial and organizational stability of the FCCC, SA, and UFS.
3. SUNY Voices sponsors events and publications intended to strengthen shared governance across the system;
4. Regular meetings between the presidents of the FCCC, the SA, and the UFS, are held with the Chancellor, the Provost, and other senior administrators as appropriate, to discuss issues of concern and develop a common agenda;
5. Chancellor's Cabinet membership includes the presidents of the FCCC, the SA, and the UFS.
6. Elected governance organization leaders and/or their representatives are included in strategic planning as well as development, implementation, and evaluation of system-wide initiatives;
7. Presidents of the FCCC, the SA, and the UFS (or their designees) are included in all search committees for senior system-wide university officers;
8. Consultation and approval processes on all major SUNY policies are articulated and followed prior to their submission to the Board of Trustees, recognizing that faculty have primary responsibility for academic policy, curriculum, and standards, and that such consultation with students is also essential for student affairs policies.
9. Senior system administrators, especially the Chancellor and the Provost, attend each of the scheduled plenary or conference events held by the FCCC, the SA, and the UFS around the state.
10. These principles and practices of SUNY system shared governance should serve as a model for effective shared governance at the campus level.

The FCCC, the SA, and the UFS look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor, and the Provost to continue to evolve the principles and practices of shared governance enumerated above, to serve as a model of shared governance at universities across the country, and to be a resource for all colleges and universities within the SUNY System.