

Principles and Practice of Shared Governance



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**Paxton Oliver – Chair
Bob Cage
Lisa Colvin
Jose Cordova
Skeet Creekmore
Dorothy Schween
Turner Steckline
John Sutherlin**

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

Principles and Practice Of Shared Governance

Shared Governance is the process by which the University community (i.e., faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and students) has the opportunity to influence decisions on matters of policy and procedure, and/or an opportunity to present alternatives on such matters. The objective of shared governance is to foster mutually reinforcing relationships that expand the opportunities for cooperation and leadership while facilitating judicious, yet creative, university governance.

Shared Governance includes issues of values, culture, management, and administration, as well as operating frameworks, such as legislation, which are externally imposed. The intent of this process is to balance efficiency and effectiveness with equity and fairness.

Principles of Shared Governance

General:

- In an environment of shared governance, those who will be affected by a decision on policy or procedures

Representation:

- **Areas of Primary Concern:** While many governance issues will involve multiple constituencies, the process acknowledges that certain areas may be the primary concern of one group either because the matters considered have primary importance and concern to that group or because one group holds the expertise in those matters.
- **Proportional Representation:** Representation should be proportional to the level of impact on constituencies. However, efficiency and effectiveness should not be sacrificed

- **Oversight:** Review and evaluation of the shared governance process is essential to ensure the functioning of the process as intended and adherence to the spirit of shared governance at all levels of the University.

Practice of Shared Governance

- A. The University should have written procedures and formal structures that

constituencies without full benefit of the shared governance process. In such cases, the representative bodies shall be informed in a timely manner and have an opportunity to comment on the actions taken.

- E. Shared governance requires a commitment of resources and time from the institution. The University must provide an appropriate level of resources to faculty, staff, and students to allow them to carry out their shared governance responsibilities effectively.
- F. While participation in governance by faculty, staff, and students is necessary and important for the well-being of the University, the final responsibility for decision-making rests with the President and the Board of Supervisors, who are ultimately held accountable by the public and its elected leaders.