



# UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION

**Number:** R03-14

**Subject:** Resolution on Shared Governance

**Date:** December 5, 2003

**WHEREAS** the University of Florida Faculty Senate on April 26, 2000, approved the following definition and purpose of Shared Governance for consideration for inclusion in the University of Florida 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.

**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 selection 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 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.

**WHEREAS** the Faculty Academic Advisory Committee, responsible for timely Faculty input into the development of policy in its formative state, resolved on March 6, 2003, 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;

**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); and

**WHEREAS** the Faculty Senate, as the representative body of the University of Florida Faculty, has asked President Young to request the Board of Trustees to agree to the principles of shared governance between Faculty and Administration at the University of Florida;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The University of Florida Board of Trustees recognizes the principles of Shared Governance between Faculty and Administration as set forth in the Faculty Senate Resolution adopted April 26, 2000 and as elaborated upon by President Young on May 2, 2003;
2. The Board of Trustees, the President, and the Faculty through the Faculty Senate will begin to implement policies and procedures that recognize the principles of Shared Governance on three levels:
  - a. **Determination:** The Board of Trustees will recognize and consider delegating to the Faculty and its representative body, the Faculty Senate, the authority to **determine** certain matters, which will be defined and agreed upon, relating to academic policy, including matters of curriculum and tenure and promotion policy;
  - b. **Recommendation:** The Board of Trustees will recognize and consider delegating to the Faculty and its representative body, the Faculty Senate, the authority to **recommend** to the President certain matters and policy 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;
  - c. **Consultation:** The Board of Trustees will formally recognize that the Faculty through the Faculty Senate will have an opportunity to **consult** with the President (or designee) on other matters connected with the priorities and policies of the University and their implementation. “To consult” is to have input into the decision-making

process, and especially to be informed of the nature and rationale for decisions before they are made.

The Board of Trustees, through the President, and the Faculty, through the Faculty Senate, will begin to implement policies and procedures that require and facilitate the implementation of the principles of shared governance at all organizational levels of the university, from individual academic units upward.

Resolution