

USF Principles of Shared Governance

All great universities embrace the concept of shared governance, which reflects a commitment by faculty, administration, and staff to work together toward the common goal of strengthening the educational mission of the university. Indeed, USF has recognized the concept in Rule, by stating that “On the part of the Administration, Academic Responsibility implies a commitment actively to foster within the University a climate favorable to responsible exercise of freedom, by adherence to principles of shared governance, which require that in the development of academic policies and processes, the professional judgments of faculty members are of primary importance.”

Shared governance represents a mutual respect within the university community for the contributions that all members bring to that common goal. As expressed by the AAUP, "a college or university in which all the components are aware of their interdependence, of the usefulness of communication among themselves, and of the force of joint action will enjoy increased capacity to solve educational problems."

USF seeks to underline its role as a community of scholars by making an unequivocal commitment to these central principles of shared governance:

1. Faculty members have the **principal** responsibility for originating policy in the following areas:
 - Academic policy, including initial authorization and direction of all courses, curricula, and degrees offered;
 - Scholastic policy, including scholastic standards for admission, grading, continuation, graduation, and honors; and
 - Academic ethics, including development of policies and procedures
 - Research

2. The faculty shall act **jointly** with the administration to make recommendations in the areas of:
 - Policies and procedures for faculty appointment, promotion and tenure review, reward systems; discipline and termination;
 - Student conduct and activities;
 - Budgetary review and strategic planning;
 - Selection and review of academic administrators;
 - Making of policy concerning the general academic welfare of the University.

3. A commitment to shared governance requires that faculty members, primarily through their representative governance body, the Faculty Senate, as well as through College and Department governance structures, must be included **at all stages** of the process of making/reviewing policy, developing curricula, selecting and reviewing administrators, making budgetary decisions, and all other areas relevant to the academic functioning of the University.
 - Notification after the fact does not constitute such inclusion.
 - Shared governance must be seen to operate at all levels of the University, from departments, through Colleges, to the University as a whole.
 - Governance documents at all these levels should reflect this spirit, and governance should be seen to operate accordingly.

Passed by the USF Faculty Senate, Sept. 17, 2003