

Executive Council
Resolution for Civil Conduct in Shared Governance

WHEREAS shared governance is vital to the well-being of a higher education institution;

WHEREAS faculty, staff, students, and administrators have a role and responsibility in building the well-being of the institution as a whole, in addition to serving their own units or constituents;

WHEREAS when the Faculty Association was formed, Principles of Agreement were passed defining the roles of the faculty constituency groups (Faculty Senate, Graduate Council, Faculty Association), and members of the respective executive councils were encouraged to “share information and communicate regularly on both formal and informal bases;”

WHEREAS negotiations in higher education, as in many successful groups or organizations, are not zero-sum. Instead, constituency groups and colleagues must work together collaboratively to generate ideas and develop systems that effectively revitalize the institution;

WHEREAS conflict resolution scholars agree that the first step in effective conflict management is negotiation with an open dialog between parties to address the conflict, characterized by trust and a cooperative problem-solving attitude;

WHEREAS the reputation of a university is one of its most precious assets;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT constituency groups and their members should approach shared governance, members of governing bodies, and their efforts to address problems and concerns on campus in a civil and professional manner, through conversations characterized by honesty and a sincere desire to achieve agreements that best serve all of the parties involved AND the institution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate will strive to uphold the ideals of shared governance and inclusiveness in collaborating effectively with all relevant stakeholder groups.