

UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XII-M4

Guide for Shared Governance

1. Motion presenter: Larry Prelli, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee
2. Date of Faculty Senate discussion: 10/22/07 and 11/5/07
3. Motion:

A minimum guideline for shared governance concerning new policies is that the process should begin with collaborative discussions of the problem, initiative, and/or issue that needs addressing and/or a remedy. Affected and appropriate faculty should be involved at this initial stage. The senate leadership can assist administrators with identification of affected and appropriate faculty to implement this guideline.

4. Rationale:

The rationale for this motion is to make an explicit shared-governance procedural guideline for new policy, in order to avoid future problems implementing shared-governance principles in situations of the kind examined in the Academic Affairs Committee's report on shared governance in the case of the tuition-based finance policy for managed study abroad programs. Consultation about the potential impact of administrative financial actions on academic programs or education should begin with identification and definition of the problem of administrative concern. The Academic Affairs Committee offers an illustration of how this procedural guideline could be enacted: "For example, if the administration is unsure whether a fiscal problem relates to academic matters, consultation with the Faculty Senate leadership will help clarify for both parties what matters do and what matters do not require shared governance." Moreover, the guideline can ensure that affected and appropriate faculty are involved early in the problem-solving process. Again, the Academic Affairs Committee explains: "If administrators are unsure which faculty members or groups are appropriate, the chair of the Faculty Senate can help them find the people who should be involved in the discussions." The committee also amplified the centrality of this procedural guideline for effective faculty governance: "This guideline is prerequisite for constructive deliberations among administrators and faculty about alternative perceptions of problems, about alternative possible remedies, and about alternative financial and academic advantages and disadvantages of proposed remedies. Without following this guideline insofar as new policy is concerned, there can be no shared governance."

5. Senate action: passed, with thirty-two ayes, no nays and one abstention

Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to: President Mark Huddleston, on 11/20, 2007

Forwarded to: Provost Bruce Mallory, on 11/20, 2007

Forwarded to: Claire Malarte Feldman, on 11/20, 2007