ROLES AND PRINCIPLES OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

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*Preamble/Introduction*

Shared Governance at Philadelphia University seeks to balance a rational allocation of decision-making responsibilities within a structure imbued with both a spirit and letter of consultation and cooperation. The rational allocation of decision-making is based on the defined areas and interrelationships of primary responsibilities of the governing board, administration, and faculty.

The following core principles for shared governance are intended to invoke an audience of a participating community including the governing board, administration and faculty.

*Role of Governing Board*

The following are the primary responsibilities of the Board of Trustees:

Ultimately, the board holds the institution it serves in trust for the public that supports and depends on an effective, diverse, and competitive system of higher education. This principle undergirds each of these 13 primary responsibilities:

1. Setting mission and purposes.

2. Appointing the president.

3. Supporting the president.

4. Monitoring the president’s performance.

5. Assessing board performance.

6. Insisting on strategic planning.

7. Reviewing educational and public service programs.

8. Ensuring adequate resources.

9. Ensuring good management.

10. Preserving institutional independence.

11. Relating campus to community and community to campus.

12. Serving occasionally as a court of appeal.

The board of trustees has legal authority over the University. It delegates this authority to the president, which is further delegated to members of the administration.

*Role of Administration*

The administration is responsible for managing the University in accordance with directives issued by the president, which reflect the priorities, by-laws, and specific directives of the board of trustees.

Shared governance requires that the administration further delegates to the faculty significant authority over academic matters. Shared governance requires the administration to consult with the faculty on issues that clearly and directly affect them.

*Roles of Faculty*

Faculty have primary responsibility in the following areas:

1. Curriculum,
2. Subject matter,
3. Methods of instruction,
4. Research,
5. Faculty status,
6. Academic scholarships (?), and
7. Those aspects of student life that relate to the educational process.

*Shared Governance at Philadelphia University shall:*

1. **Collaboration among stakeholders**Provide the primary vehicle for shared decision-making among faculty, administrators and students to implement the mission and the Strategic Plan of the University.
2. **Responsible Decision-Making**  
   Accord the faculty primary responsibility for the educational and scholarly dimensions of the University while allocating responsibilities appropriately to the administrative offices and faculty committees.
3. **Consultation and Dialog**Provide opportunities for regular and meaningful faculty consultation and dialog with the governing board.
4. **Effectiveness and Efficiency**Balance efficiency and effectiveness through a logical and reasonable distribution of work, professional and mutually respectful deliberations, and timely decision-making and implementation.
5. **Transparency**Function in a manner that is transparent to the University community. The logic organizing distribution of work and the practice of decision-making and implementation should be consistent, rational, and understandable by the university community.
6. **Participation and Representation**Be driven by active and effectual participation by faculty and offer ample opportunities for broad representation of the diverse points of view that constitute the faculty, administration, and students.
7. **Communication**Facilitate communication through a platform of appropriate and accessible channels connecting all stakeholders of the University from the governing board to students.
8. **Flexibility**   
   Encourage a flexible organization that is able to responsibly reflect on and creatively respond to opportunities for academic innovation.