

09.15.23; for discussion @ 9.21.23 Welfare Council

Resolution on the Status of Shared Governance at the University of Florida

WHEREAS the 2022-23 Task Force on Shared Governance conducted a survey of all faculty regarding shared governance procedures and implementation in their colleges, units, and departments, and

WHEREAS the Task Force conducted 18 listening sessions to hear faculty feedback on shared governance within their colleges, units, and departments, and

WHEREAS the Task Force received information that shared governance mechanisms had broken down, or were failing in certain respects, in many colleges, units, and departments, and

WHEREAS a robust system of collaboration and shared governance is instrumental in achieving academic excellence, community, cohesiveness, and ensuring that the University of Florida is competitive in recruiting and retaining top faculty talent, and

WHEREAS the University of Florida Board of Trustees has committed itself to promoting and protecting shared governance, and

WHEREAS shared governance is best understood as a system of collaboration, community-building, and a commitment to optimizing excellence by valuing the input of all stakeholders, and

WHEREAS faculty and administrators are equally responsible for building a culture of collaboration, mutual accountability, meaningful self-reflection on governance procedures, and supporting participation in all areas of the University's mission,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Florida Faculty Senate requests that the following actions be taken by the respective parties:

1. That the University of Florida Faculty Senate Chair tasks each faculty council to undertake a review of shared governance mechanisms within their college, unit, or department and make appropriate changes to ensure meaningful collaboration in governance and report back their results within one year to the Faculty Senate,
2. That President Ben Sasse directs the academic deans and directors of each college, unit, and department to work with their representative faculty bodies in assessing the state of shared governance in their units and that those deans and directors assist faculty in strengthening governance mechanisms through procedural changes to incorporate faculty collaboration and a commitment to transparency,
3. That the University of Florida Board of Trustees reaffirms the importance of shared governance to furthering UF's mission of becoming a top public research institution.