

UHD Senate Resolution on Academic Shared Governance

Passed by a majority vote (22-0) of Faculty Senate 9/6/2011

Whereas

- UHD's policy on Academic Shared Governance (PS 01.A.03) has not undergone revision since 1995;
- UHD's growth over the past sixteen years has exposed some current inefficiencies in the implementation of the policy and lack of clarity in language, which manifests most often in the form of delays in the formulation, revision, approval and implementation of policy;
- The implementation of UHD's Strategic Plan 2020 will require an efficient system for academic policy formulation and revision;
- Any such system must involve the shared participation of faculty, staff, and students in moving UHD forward;
- PS 01.A.03 can be amended only by the consent of the Faculty Senate and the President.

Be it resolved:

- That the Faculty Senate hereby conveys to the President its intent and willingness to consider revision of PS 01.A.03;
- That the Senate acknowledges that the President, should he be willing to consider revisions, may ask the Provost and Chief Officer of Academic Affairs to act on his behalf as needed to initiate discussion of any new drafts among the university community via guidance of the existing leadership bodies (Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and Student Government Association).
- That, immediately upon adoption of this Resolution, the Faculty Senate shall create a Task Force on Shared Governance consisting of 7 faculty members (minimum 3 from Senate) chaired by the Faculty Senate President and give it three charges, to wit—
 - Identifying best practices of Shared Governance employed at other universities and informing the Senate of its findings;
 - Reviewing any draft of revised policy proposals from the President or Provost—when the document comes to the Senate for review of suggested revisions and input from faculty at UHD; and,
 - Formulating a draft document of revisions to PS 01.A.03 for presentation to the Faculty Senate, showing suggested revisions in comparison to the relevant sections of the current policy along with any comments as to how such a revision might affect how that section is currently followed.
- That FSEC be authorized to negotiate, on behalf of the Faculty Senate, with the President and Provost, to develop timetables, flow charts, and deadlines essential for moving the suggested revisions to PS 01.A.03 efficiently through an open and transparent revision process informed by previous UHD practice and current and future needs, while allowing all affected parties (faculty, staff, and students) to provide input;
- That FSEC be authorized to communicate, on behalf of the Faculty Senate, with representatives from the Staff Council and the Student Government Association as the situation may dictate

Be it further resolved:

- That the Faculty Senate enters into this process with the following expectations, to wit—
 - The UHD faculty will continue to share jointly with the academic administration responsibility for key decision-making positions over policies directly affecting the academic environment, including curriculum revision and development, academic program planning, faculty personnel matters, academic standards, graduate programs, and faculty research. The faculty should also be fully informed about and able to provide significant input on matters of academic budgeting;
 - The Faculty Senate should serve as the key forum in the review and approval process of University Academic Policy. No such policy ought to go forward to the President without the Faculty Senate's recommendations;
 - Staff members, who often are charged with implementing policy and have knowledge of university operations and relevant state and federal rules, should be formally included in the policy-writing process;
 - Students should be included in the policy-writing process where appropriate.
- That any revisions to the current Academic Shared Governance policy be demonstrably in accord with the American Association of University Professors 1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities as well as best practices employed at UHD's peer universities.

And be it finally resolved:

- That any revised Academic Shared Governance policy (PS 01.A.03) include verbatim Section 2.9 from the current policy: "Amendment of this shared governance policy shall be by consent of the University's faculty senate and the president";
- That Faculty Senate consent to any revision of the Shared Governance Policy can be granted only by a two-thirds vote of the full Senate on the exact language of the entire policy that will be presented to the President for his consent and signature.