

From: [President](#)
Subject: Shared Governance Update
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Office of the President

October 13, 2022

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As outlined in the last update, the Shared Governance Work Group has continued working towards a definition of shared governance, as well as the roles and responsibilities of University stakeholders. We had productive meetings on August 17 and September 22, and unanimously approved a definition of shared governance for SPU:

Shared governance is a process of collaborative decision-making involving systems of distributed authority, shared responsibility, and mutual accountability among key University stakeholders, including Trustees, senior leadership, faculty, staff, and students, recognizing the distinct roles, responsibilities, and expertise of each. As a Christ-centered university with the aim of being a grace-filled community, shared governance at Seattle Pacific University involves mutual respect, timely and transparent communication, and due consideration of the concerns of all participants.

The Work Group has also agreed to a set of deliverables to be completed in the next few months.

- Decision-making matrix: This chart will list all university decision-makers, types of decisions, and degrees of decision-making. The goal is to make it clear which constituents are responsible for certain decisions.
- Communication document: This document will flesh out the communication opportunities and responsibilities between the different SPU stakeholders.
- Roles and responsibilities document: This document will list SPU stakeholders and summarize their roles and responsibilities pertaining to shared governance.

Outline of shared governance decision-making structures and policies for the SPU website: To make the work of SPU's shared governance processes transparent to the community, it will be available on SPU's website.

The next meeting of the Shared Governance Work Group is scheduled for October 17.

Sincerely,

Leland Saunders (Co-Chair)

Pete Menjares (Co-Chair)

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