

**WSU POLICY
COVER PAGE**

IS THIS A NEW POLICY OR CHANGE TO AN EXISTING POLICY?		NEW		EXISTING	X
POLICY TITLE:	1.10 / Shared Governance				
INITIATING AUTHORITY:	President				
SUMMARY OF POLICY OR POLICY CHANGE:					
Specific changes made were:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include new language on principles of shared governance, process to include constituent groups, and support for constituent group leaders. 					
REASON OR NEED FOR POLICY / SUMMARY OF CHANGES MADE TO EXISTING POLICY:					
The revision formalizes the current commitment to shared governance on the campus, including details of the principles that guide implementation and the commitment of resources to support the leadership of the constituent senates.					
APPLICABLE LAWS OR REGULATORY OR POLICY AUTHORITY:					
N/A					
OTHER RELEVANT WSU POLICIES:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy manual - policy 					
THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITY STAKEHOLDERS WERE INCLUDED IN THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THIS POLICY DRAFT / REVISION:					
	Constituent senate leadership: Matt Houston (USS), Jeffrey Jarman (FS), Rija Khan (SGA), Julie Scott (UP)				
	Office of the Provost: Linnea GlenMaye				
OTHER NOTES FOR CONSIDERATION:					
OWNER OF POLICY REQUEST FOR QUESTIONS:					



Policies and Procedures

1.10 / Shared Governance

I. INITIATING AUTHORITY

- A. Office of the President

II. PURPOSE

- A. Shared governance is the transparent process by which Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administration contribute to decision making related to policies, procedures, and initiatives for Wichita State University. Shared governance is an essential factor in support of good decision-making at the university because it contributes to a culture where the contributions of the various constituent groups are valued and included in the final decision. The inclusion of the perspectives of faculty, staff and students allow the constituent groups to influence the final decision in ways that are mutually beneficial to the entire campus community. When genuine shared governance is used, efforts to make decisions are proactive, post-implementation challenges can be anticipated, and blind spots can be avoided. The result is final decisions that are both better and more readily embraced by the whole campus community. Abiding by the following four principles will ensure shared governance on our campus. Although the senates are a vital role in the development and implementation of university policy, the ultimate legal authority to decide rests with the President.

III. POLICY

- A. Shared governance principles.
 - 1. **Mutual Accountability:** This principle permeates all levels of decision-making with the University community and requires a unified commitment among all University leaders and constituencies to practice shared governance and to hold each other accountable if a decision/process falls below goals and expectations.
 - 2. **Transparency:** All stakeholders are transparent and forthcoming in communication to cultivate a University culture that assumes good intentions, fosters good will, and a commitment to common values. Communication is open, honest, robust, ethical, and follows the process decided upon by the convening body. Regular, multidirectional, and trustworthy communication is critical to ensure comprehensive review prior to decisions.

3. **Inclusivity:** It is important to keep all governed bodies informed of university decisions and opinions that affect those groups and to allow input towards any decisions made that affect any university policies and or procedures. Administrative and constituent leaders should also find ways both within and outside of the formal governance structure to incorporate the voices of all faculty, staff, and students in the campus discourse on issues of importance.
 4. **Genuine Consultation & Respect:** Collaboration and shared governance takes time. Healthy consultation requires engagement in decisions early and often so that, when possible, there is adequate time for thoughtful consideration of multiple viewpoints before a final decision is made. Consultation should be iterative and inform the solution.
- B. **Institutional support for constituent leaders**
1. Faculty and staff shall be afforded the necessary time during their regularly scheduled hours to complete duties attributed to their service on committees, councils and senates. Prior to accepting a role on committees, councils, or senates, staff should confer with their immediate supervisor regarding the time commitments of the additional responsibilities. Supervisors should make every effort to support employees who want to participate in shared governance activities and denials should be limited to extraordinary circumstances.
 2. **Faculty Senate Leadership:** Because of the significant level of effort required of faculty senate president and president elect, the work assignment of the individuals shall be adjusted during their service to the University. For the president of the faculty senate, this adjustment shall be equivalent to a three (3) credit hour course in each of the summer, fall and spring semesters for the service year. Additional compensation can be negotiated in lieu of course release. For the president elect of the faculty senate, this shall be the equivalent of a three (3) hour credit course in the spring semester of the service year. All such efforts must be in-load and supported by the University.
 3. **Staff Senate Leadership:** Because of the significant level of effort required of the staff senate president and president elect, they shall be afforded sufficient budget for additional compensation during the year of their service.
 4. **Student Government Association Leadership:** The budget for SGA includes a line item for the salary for the president of SGA.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Constituent senates include:**
- Faculty Senate

University Staff Senate
Student Government Association

- B. Constituent leaders are the presidents of the constituent senates.

V. APPLICABLE LAWS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- A. [1.10 / Shared Governance](#)
- B. [Policy manual - Policy](#)

DRAFT