

***A GIANT LEAP TOWARDS AGILE, INCLUSIVE,  
AND TRANSPARENT SHARED GOVERNANCE  
AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY***

Prepared by  
The Shared Governance Task Force Founders  
For Listening Session #3  
30 June 2021

# ***THE AGENDA***

- Welcome
- Current Status of Working Group
- Shared Governance, Decision-Making, and Laws in the State of Indiana
- Timeline Shifts
- What is Shared Governance?

# ***CURRENT STATUS OF SG WORKING GROUP***

- Confirmed Members
  - Faculty: Deborah Nichols, Colleen Brady
  - Staff: Sara Mellady, Stacey Baisden, Brock Turner
  - Students: Madelina Nuñez
  - Others: Angela Dodd

# ***SHARED GOVERNANCE, DECISION-MAKING, AND LAWS IN THE STATE OF INDIANA***

- Indiana Law (IC 21-27-7-4) vests in the BoT the authority and responsibility for the operation of Purdue University
- Any roles or responsibilities for decision-making within a shared governance structure must be traced to a delegation of authority
- BoT made a delegation to faculties in 1964
  - The responsibilities conferred were to be exercised "subject to the authority of the Board of Trustees and in consultation with the president."
  - It is not irrevocable
  - "[n]othing in [the delegation] shall be construed as restraining the Board of Trustees from taking such action as they determine to be necessary in the discharge of their legal responsibilities."

# ***TIMELINE SHIFTS***

- Summer
  - Conduct listening sessions to gather opinions, questions, concerns
  - Engage with General Counsel and Other Administrative Offices and Committees to determine if, whether, and how policies and procedures are affected by (or affect) any proposed changes
- Early Fall
  - Continue listening sessions for those who were unable to participate during the summer
  - Engage with consultant and working group around development of mission statement, bylaws, policy and procedure changes
- Mid Fall
  - Distribute mission statement, bylaws, and potential policy and procedural changes
  - Solicit input
- Late Fall
  - Distribute revised documents for review
  - Vote on these documents
  - Present to BoT in December

# ***WHAT IS SHARED GOVERNANCE?***

- Shared governance is the process by which various constituents (governing boards, senior administration, faculty, and, as proposed here, staff and students) contribute to decision-making related to policy, procedure, and practice
- Shared governance does not mean shared decision-making
- At Purdue, decision-making authority is held by the President and the Board of Trustees (BoT)
- Within these constraints, shared governance would:
  - Bring together diverse constituents that represent everyone at Purdue
  - Encourage spirited (and civil) debate and dialogue
  - Provide a direct line of communication to administration and the BoT
  - Recognize and accept role as advisers and not decision-makers

## ***FOUR PRIMARY THEMES FOR DISCUSSION***

- How would you define shared governance?
- What would make you feel assured that shared governance is working (e.g., perhaps a feedback protocol where there is a public acknowledgement that the Board of Trustees has received the new council's input)?
- What are ways that staff, non-tenured faculty, and students might share honest opinions and feedback and not be concerned about their future status at Purdue?
- What are other forms of non-formal shared governance that we currently engage in (e.g., feedback forums and town halls, college or school level structures)? What are other ways we might engage in non-formal shared governance?

***Thank you***

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***https://www.purdue.edu/provost/faculty/initiatives/senate.php***