Statement on Shared Governance

We affirm that shared governance practices have been central to building a world-class University of Wisconsin System. Participation of administrators, faculty, staff, and students in decision-making makes all of us take responsibility for the success of our colleges and universities and thereby enhances everyone’s commitment to excellence, efficiency, and productivity. Further, these practices are consistent with Wisconsin Statutes (Chapter 36), University of Wisconsin System Administrative Code, and relevant UW-Milwaukee Policies and Procedures approved and enforced by governance bodies. As a universal and enduring governing principle, robust shared governance has been essential to:

- developing and maintaining high academic quality;
- guiding actions at all levels across our institutions;
- providing checks and balances on collective actions within the university; and
- preserving the academic integrity of the University of Wisconsin System by upholding the ideals of academic freedom and democratic practice.

In light of recent external remarks regarding the effectiveness of shared governance, we urge all lawmakers and campus administrators to exercise extreme caution in considering any changes to a process that has been so successful for many decades. All campus voices should be heard and have a meaningful decision-making role in a manner appropriate to their institutional functions and responsibility. Shared governance should be endorsed and strengthened, and we are all responsible for maintaining it.

Rationale

Given recent external remarks regarding the effectiveness of shared governance, it is appropriate for the Faculty Senate to officially endorse the principles and acknowledge the successes of our shared governance system.