SHARED GOVERNANCE COMMUNICATION
A Statement From Sherry Buchanan, Ph.D.
Chair
Board of Governors
9/21/12

Shared Governance prescribes various roles, responsibilities and decision-making authority. There must be mutual respect for one another's respective authority, transparent communication between groups, and clear understanding of how collaboration is operationalized. The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges recognizes that not all decision-making processes are clear cut and that there can be overlapping responsibilities and authority for various campus decisions. The AGB recommends that "each group should understand whether its purview, as well as that of others in the governance process, is determinative, consultative or informational." ("Board Responsibility For Institutional Governance", Board of Directors Statement, January 22, 2010)

We cannot simply assume that we understand our group's role in a particular decision-making process. And we must keep in mind that a group's purview changes, depending on the type of decision that is pending. I encourage all of us to remain conscious of the need to clarify the functions of our Shared Governance entities, to identify our "determinative, consultative or informational" roles as we approach various decisions, and to respect one another's responsibilities.