



**11/AS/21/SEC/ASI**  
**Shared Governance Resolution**

RESOLVED: that the CSU Stanislaus Academic Senate affirm the attached Statement on Principles of Shared Governance and Consultation

Rationale: Associated Students, Inc. [ASI] constitutes the elected representative voice of students at our university; students elected or appointed to roles within ASI, by ASI officials, represent student interests and concerns on decision-making governance bodies such as Academic Senate and other appropriate committees.

The practical discourse in meetings of the Academic Senate and in meetings of other governance committees is inevitably distorted by power, privilege, and the perspectives that calcify as a result of specific roles (such as member of the faculty, staff, or administration). These effects on discourse in meetings cannot be eliminated, nor is the goal of the affirmation of the attached principles to attempt to reduce meaningful dissent or to police discursive tone. The intention of the attached principles is, rather, to underscore that each person who contributes does so because they have the right to do so, and their right to do so should be embraced by all participants regardless of power or rank.

Affirming these attached principles is one way to signal our collective commitment, across each of our shared governance and decision-making roles, to aspire to discourse that honors and dignifies the perspectives of student representatives and student guests at meetings. When someone participating in shared governance meetings—as a formal representative or as a guest at open meetings—voices a question or concern, their perspective is as worthy of the same honor and dignity as any other perspective in the room, regardless of formal educational level or discursive aptitude. Indeed, it is consonant with our university's educational mission to note that we have an obligation to approach those with the least power and the least formal educational attainment with the most deliberate and intentional excess of honor and dignity, as we should be advocates for people currently in those positions.

**Attachment: Statement on Shared Governance and Consultation**

**Approved by the Academic Senate on May 4, 2021**  
**Approved President Ellen Junn on May 20, 2021**

## 11/AS/21/SEC/ASI

### STATEMENT ON SHARED GOVERNANCE AND CONSULTATION

While acknowledging the University President has ultimate and final authority in all decisions affecting our university, the importance of active consultation and collaboration between administration, faculty, staff, and students in that decision-making process cannot be overstated. Shared governance at California State University, Stanislaus is achieved through collaboration with administration, faculty, staff and students during all appropriate phases of the decision-making process. Embracing the principles of shared governance acknowledges the belief in the power and strength of inclusivity among all members of our university structure -- that our most perfect strength lies not in one, but in all.

A genuine commitment to meaningful, continual, and effective consultation is the cornerstone of shared governance. Mutual respect and commitment to the collaborative process is an absolute requirement for the success of shared governance, with transparency, and accountability to proper execution being of utmost importance.

#### Principles of Shared Governance

- Consultation among and between administration, faculty, staff, and students, that is routine, timely, and characterized by equitable consideration of all viewpoints, with members who are fully informed and prepared to discuss the matters at hand.
- Consistent communication between all members of the campus community during each phase of the policy and procedure making process.
- Fostering equitable participation across all roles and position in which trust, integrity, collaboration, and communication among all governing bodies is a priority.

#### Equitable Participation in Governance

- Create an equity-oriented environment where speaking is directly encouraged and each perspective is valued, regardless of one's position within the University.
- Embrace dissent as a vital component of deliberation and decision making, including focusing dissenting comments or questions on the issue/question rather than on the role or credibility of previous speakers or their communication style.
- Foster healthy discussion among all members.
  - Disagreement is not evidence of lack of respect or support.
- Organize early and meaningful constituent engagement in key decision-making.

#### Commitment

- Acknowledge whom we serve and why we are here.
- Strive for collaborative and consultative decision making.
- Maintain transparency and clear communication about process, timeline, and outcomes.

Shared Governance is not one person, one Board, or one department making decisions that effects the entire University population. The goal of shared governance is to ensure that the input

of the stakeholders is included in the decision-making process, accountability is shared, and that decisions are made cooperatively to effectively support the campus community.

Meaningful consultation among administration, faculty, staff, and students requires adequate representation on University Committees including Academic Senate and their standing committees as various Ad Hoc committees, councils, taskforces and/or advisory groups created by the University President, Cabinet, and/or Academic Senate.

**Administration** is responsible for the day-to-day operations including administrative functions and services for the university that includes the President, Vice Presidents, Associate Vice Presidents, Deans, and Directors/Managers.

**Academic Senate (AS)** is the official representative of the general faculty on campus and is the chief consulting body in matters pertaining to curriculum, academic personnel, and other academic concerns.

**Staff Council** is a permanent organization constituted to provide for staff participation in the University's affairs and to permit consultation among administration and the various segments of the University.

**Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Board of Directors** is the official governing body and voice of the students in all matters pertaining to students.