
Values Statement on Shared Governance

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is committed to shared governance as it has been historically practiced since the establishment of the University of Wisconsin System. Shared governance on the UW-Madison campus involves four groups: faculty, academic staff, university staff, and students, in partnership with the administration. Administration (chancellor) [WI State Statute 36.09 (3)], faculty [WI State Statute 36.09 (4)], and students [WI State Statute 36.09 (5)] were included in shared governance in state statutes at the time of merger in 1973. Academic staff [WI State Statute 36.09 (4m)] were added in 1985. University staff [BOR policy 20-20] were granted shared governance rights by Board of Regents policy in 2012.

The practice of shared governance at UW-Madison means an active partnership among shared governance groups, the chancellor, and other administrative leaders with regard to campus decision-making and policy-making. Shared governance partners must be involved in decisions concerning academics, research, student life, campus climate, diversity, search and screen committees for campus leadership, human resources, campus health and life, and other matters of campus-wide import. **Shared governance involvement creates a transparent, collaborative, and inclusive process, which leads to enduring policies, procedures, ownership, and implementation.**

All shared governance groups are able to organize themselves as they see fit, defining and maintaining their own respective policies as they relate to each group. The guiding documents for shared governance at UW-Madison include Academic Staff Policies and Procedures (ASPP), Faculty Policies and Procedures (FPP), University Staff policies and procedures, Associated Students of Madison Constitution and Bylaws, related legislation, and other shared governance policies.

We hereby call on the shared governance groups, together with the chancellor, to convene a joint committee to create specific policies that operationalize the goals and practices articulated above.