

This is the statement on shared governance that Chair Randy Clark presented to Christala Smith (Director CIDT) for the BLUE Orientation (Summer 2021).

Statement on Shared Governance

The administration, faculty, and staff at Southeastern Oklahoma State University embrace the principle of shared governance. Due to the complexity of institutions of higher education, there is an inescapable interdependence among the governing board, administration, faculty, students, and others. The relationship among these entities requires that there be adequate communication among the entities/components to provide full opportunity for appropriate joint planning and effort. Joint effort in an academic institution takes a variety of forms, appropriate to the different kinds of situations being encountered. "In some instances, an initial recommendation will be made by the President, with consideration by the faculty at a later stage. In other instances, an initial recommendation will be made by the faculty, subject to the endorsement of the President and governing board. In other instances, substantive contributions can be made when student leaders are responsibly involved in the process." Two general conclusions regarding joint effort are warranted: (1) Important areas of action involve, at one time or another, the initiating capacity and decision-making participation of all the institutional components. (2) "Differences in the weight of each voice from one point to the next should be determined by reference to the responsibility of each component for the particular matter at hand." The University and other academic institutions are less autonomous than in the past and are now supported by funds from sources over which the university exercises diminishing control. If the voices of all parties at the university are to be successfully heard, this institution must be able to speak from a generally unified view. When all components at the university recognize their interdependence, and are aware of the usefulness of communication, the result is that the force of joint action increases the university's capacity to solve broad educational problems.

The following represent Southeastern's principles of shared governance: Final authority and responsibility for the welfare of Southeastern Oklahoma State University rests with Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; the Boards delegate to the President portions of that authority for the purpose of assuring the effective management of the university; shared governance procedures and principles apply at all levels within the university; shared governance requires informed participation and collaboration by faculty, students, staff, and administrators; faculty, staff, and students shall have opportunities to participate, appropriate to their special knowledge and expertise, in decisions that relate to:

- a. Mission and budget priorities for the university.
- b. Curriculum, course content, and instruction.
- c. Research.
- d. Appointment, promotion, and tenure of all faculty members and the development of policies that affect faculty welfare generally.
- e. Development of human resources policies and procedures for exempt and nonexempt staff.
- f. Selection and appointment of administrators.

- g. Issues that affect the ability of students to complete their education.
- h. Other issues that arise from time to time that affect the overall welfare of the university.

While some members of shared governance bodies (for example, faculty senate, staff association, and student government association) may be appointed, the substantial majority should be elected by their constituencies. These bodies, then, should elect their own presiding officers.

Finally, shared governance requires a commitment of resources and time from the university. The university shall provide a proper level of resources, as determined by the President, to faculty, staff, and students to allow them to carry out their shared governance responsibilities effectively. While participation in governance by faculty, staff, and students is necessary and important for the wellbeing of the university, the final responsibility for decision-making rests with the institutional President, the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents, and/or the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education who are ultimately held accountable by the public and its elected leaders.