Reaffirmation of Shared Governance at Florida Gulf Coast University
October 18, 2012

Affirmation of Shared Governance

Florida Gulf Coast University reaffirms its commitment to shared governance, which is the participation of faculty, staff, students, administrators, the president, and the board of trustees (hereafter referred to as stakeholders) in mutual, respectful, transparent decision- and policy-making processes.

Statement of Purpose of Shared Governance

The purpose of shared governance at FGCU is to effectively promote the accomplishment of the University’s unique vision and mission through shared responsibility and accountability among stakeholders, while exercising sound principles of fiscal management and retaining public accountability. We are committed at FGCU to the notion that the best path to success is one where the responsibility and accountability for academic excellence and student success is shared openly and cooperatively among all parties.

Shared governance involves collaborative efforts to fulfill and fully execute the institutional mission by participating in matters including the:

1. identification of priorities,
2. development of policies,
3. defining of responsibility for ethical leadership,
4. enhancement of community partnerships, and
5. stewardship of the academic institution as a whole.

Principles of Shared Governance

We agree that there are certain attributes of shared governance that should be observed and respected by all parties, regardless of the specific processes followed or levels of stakeholder involvement. An effective process of shared governance is characterized by:

a. Collegiality, mutual trust, and collaboration – stakeholders promote a climate of trust and cooperativeness that fosters the expression of views without negative consequences. Stakeholders openly support shared governance, in words and actions, and view themselves as partners in the success of the University. Stakeholders openly support, encourage, and reward collegial participation in shared governance.

b. Proactive involvement - stakeholders seek out and respect views from other stakeholders and affected parties who have relevant information, expertise and involvement in matters under consideration.

c. Representative participation -faculty, staff and student participants work to accurately and democratically portray the full range and nature of valid constituent issues in governance processes, recognizing the majority position when it is known, but also crediting important minority perspectives.

d. Clarity of roles -stakeholders mutually develop a common understanding of and respect for their appropriate roles in both regular and ad hoc processes, and establish methods of resolving issues when consensus cannot be reached.

e. Transparency – stakeholders keep each other informed on upcoming and ongoing decision processes, both shared and autonomous, to ensure that all parties are cognizant of significant developments throughout the process.

f. Accountability - stakeholders recognize the value of and actively participate in systematic review, assessment, and continuous improvement of decision-making processes, and cooperatively and constructively help remediate governance processes as needed.