

Shared Governance Philosophy

BACKGROUND

Informed by the work on shared governance by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the Association of Governing Boards (AGB), the board engaged in a discussion of shared governance at OSU during its fall 2023 retreat with Faculty Senate leadership, the president, the provost, ASOSU and ASCC student body presidents and senior administrators. In January 2024, the Executive, Audit and Governance Committee revisited the concepts and takeaways from the fall retreat. Based on that work, the following philosophy was drafted for consideration by the committee and the full board.

Shared Governance Philosophy

The Oregon State University Board of Trustees recognizes that shared governance is about how faculty, administrators, and board members engage in advancing the university's mission and strategic plan. The board is committed to the principles of shared governance, as described in the [American Association of University Professors \(AAUP\) Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities](#) and embraces the following principles and values:

- Open deliberation and decision making.
- Mutual respect and trust among shared governance partners and stakeholders.
- Consistent alignment with the university's mission and strategic plan.
- Accountability and the recognition of roles and responsibilities: the board is vested by law with the power and authority to govern the university and ensure its fiscal integrity; the president is the executive and governing officer of the university; through the president, the faculty is entrusted with the conduct of teaching and research and the stewardship of curricular matters.
- Shared governance is not shared decision making. The board's focus is primarily one of oversight and policy determination. Out of deep respect that decisions should be informed and made by appropriate experts, the board delegates authority to the president to administer the university, except otherwise provided by law, the board's [Delegation of Authority](#) policy, or other actions of the board.
- The board seeks meaningful engagement with diverse stakeholders, including faculty, students, staff, alumni and community members to foster a culture of inclusivity that helps inform the board's decision making process.
- Board members will engage in orientations and refreshers grounded in the work of the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) and AAUP to deepen their understanding of effective shared governance and its practice and to promote thoughtful decision making in consultation with content experts in advancing the mission of the university.

NEXT STEPS

The committee will consider and make a recommendation to adopt the shared governance philosophy.