

RESOLUTION ON SHARED GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, Indiana University's history of shared governance has been an essential element in building Indiana University into the fine institution it is today with a strong sense of camaraderie and shared purpose among faculty and administrators;

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Faculty Council firmly believes that good decision-making by University officials requires continual consultation with faculty and the BFC, which serves as the elective body representing faculty;

WHEREAS, the faculty of Indiana University is eager to help university administrators make good decisions and develop responses to challenges that are appropriate and effective;

WHEREAS, the current economic environment will likely provoke profound changes at Indiana University and require important decisions with long-term consequences to all parts of Indiana University;

WHEREAS, the current economic environment will also provide opportunities for positive change and innovation;

WHEREAS, in recent years, University officials often fail to consult substantively with faculty when making decisions that affect the pedagogical and academic environment;

WHEREAS, too often leaders within the Bloomington Faculty Council and its committees are notified of administrative decisions after the fact and provided information through the local media rather than through direct university channels;

WHEREAS, the present approach used by the administration is not providing opportunity to the faculty or the BFC to be consulted in time to have an impact;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bloomington Faculty Council endorses the following principles and calls on university administrators to endorse and to act on these principles in order to re-build an atmosphere of shared governance based on trust and common purpose among all citizens of Indiana University:

Consultation: faculty should be included in substantive discussions of university and campus issues in time to influence administrative decisions;

Notification: announcements of administrative decisions should be made to faculty before being released to the press;

Transparency: faculty should be informed of the process that led to a particular decision;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Bloomington Faculty Council understands that truly substantive consultation with faculty requires discretion and responsiveness on the part of the faculty and its leaders and pledges to act quickly on requests for consultation and to work constructively with our administrative partners.