

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY - UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
PHILOSOPHY OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

We believe that shared governance aligns the board, administration and faculty in common directions for decision-making regarding institutional direction and should be grounded in commitment to educational quality and results.

We value and appreciate the distinct, but mutually-supportive responsibilities distributed among the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students of the university. We believe in collaboration that seeks and represents the voice of all constituencies in decisions and matters that impact those constituencies—recognizing that shared governance is neither consensus nor democratic governance.

We value transparency in university and unit decisions such that the various constituencies of the university are aware of how decisions are made and the rationale for those decisions, which will ensure the university remains mission-focused. Groups and individuals should have timely and easy access to information about the decisions for which they are responsible and about decisions that impact them. Such transparency also means that decision-making groups and individuals are accountable for the decisions they make and for involving the appropriate constituencies in those decisions.

Approved: May 4, 2017