

What Is My Role in Shared Governance?

Effective shared governance is based on a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of participants, including administration, faculty members, staff members and students. Each member of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy community must understand these roles and must take responsibility as appropriate.

The Faculty Senate, Staff Council and Student Government Association are the official, elected representatives of the faculty, staff and students. These bodies are responsible for reviewing institutional policies and documents that affect their constituencies and making recommendations regarding these policies to the president. Similarly, these groups solicit and represent the opinions, suggestions and recommendations of their respective constituents. Further, they respond to questions or issues that arise from individuals or groups. Finally, the Faculty Senate, Staff Council and Student Government Association and their executive committees respond to requests for consultation from the administration.

Administrator Role in Shared Governance

The administration (president, vice presidents, deans and department chairs) participates in the shared governance structure by consulting and involving key constituents in the decision-making process. The president utilizes directives from the Board in formulating and articulating a vision for the institution, providing strategic and operational leadership and managing its resources and operations in a reasonable and prudent manner. College administrators provide leadership and make final decisions in their particular areas of responsibility, but such actions are usually taken after consultation with various concerned individuals, groups or organizations.

Faculty Role in Shared Governance

The faculty will exercise its role in shared governance in various ways: as individuals, within and through departments, on committees, and as members of special task forces. The faculty's involvement in shared governance will specifically include, but is not limited to, all areas involving curriculum, standards of instruction, design and delivery of courses, academic policies, granting of degrees and matters relating to faculty employment and welfare. The faculty will ensure that its governance policies and procedures will include broad-based constituent participation, and in a timely manner initiate, review, amend and enact proposals brought before them. The Faculty Senate will serve as the representative faculty body responsible for facilitating this work as well as advocating for and upholding faculty interests.

Staff Role in Shared Governance

The staff participates in shared governance through the Staff Council. The council represents and communicates the interests of the staff in an equitable and representative forum. The council advises the president on staff matters, recommends and reviews policies as they affect the staff, keeps the staff informed, and provides a forum for discussion and recommendations on matters of interest to the staff. The Staff Council is given the responsibility to appoint members to college committees, task forces or other groups.

Student Role in Shared Governance

The students of St. Louis College of Pharmacy are represented in the shared governance process through the Student Government Association (SGA). The SGA represents all students at the College. It provides an opportunity for all students to actively contribute to the academic and social climate of the campus. The association encourages students to participate in the governance of the campus community through the election of student leaders, regular attendance at SGA meetings and responding to requests for feedback in surveys and evaluations. The association's Executive Cabinet serves as the primary Student Government Association liaison with the faculty, staff and administration. The SGA is responsible for appointing student members to college committees, task forces, or other groups.