

Report to Faculty Senate from Faculty Welfare Committee for April 7, 2008

One of the charges of the Faculty Senate Welfare Committee this year is a discussion of the philosophy and reality of shared governance at Eastern. The Faculty Welfare Committee would like to begin a discussion about shared governance within the professoriate and the ECU community during this year. At this time in the country, there is a concern about the business model of governance that is being promoted in academic institutions. This model of governance is a top down decision making model in which there is either no shared governance or very little among faculty, staff, and administration.

In an AAUP document that described a study of Indicators of Sound Governance: <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/protect/legal/topics/legal-govern.htm?PF=1> shared governance is discussed and a survey of universities is described. The survey defines 3 models of shared governance on page 19.

The “fully collaborative decision making” model is one in which faculty and administration make decisions jointly and consensus is the goal. The “consultative decision making” model is one in which faculty’s advice and opinion is sought yet authority is with the senior administration and board of trustees. Information sharing and discussion are the goals instead of joint decision making. The “distributed decision-making” model is one in which specific groups make decisions in areas in which they have primacy.

We would like to recommend these documents:

<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/governancestatement.htm?PF=1>

AAUP link

<http://www.aaup.org>

“Shared Governance”

<http://www.aft.org/topics/shared-governance>

The Faculty Senate Welfare Committee recommends that each department begin the discussion of shared governance within their unit. We hope that faculty will become engaged in a discussion that is important to all of us during this time of change within the university. This discussion is especially important in light of academic administrative decisions in which faculty had little to no role in the decisions.

We would like to begin this discussion now by asking two questions of faculty:

1. What does faculty think about shared governance at Eastern at this time?
2. What shared governance model, principles, and elements does faculty want at Eastern?