

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Contact: Randy Martin, Staff Senate President, 972-2093

**ACTION ITEM:**

Arkansas State University-Jonesboro (ASUJ) requests approval to designate the ASUJ Shared Governance Process as a stand-alone document, independent of oversight by any single campus constituency.

**ISSUE:**

The ASUJ Shared Governance Process documentation currently resides only in the Faculty Handbook which calls for approval by the ASU Board of Trustees for each amendment. In the truest spirit of shared governance, the process itself should be documented separately and made available on the Shared Governance Website to all interested persons. The ASU System legal counsel concurs that the Shared Governance Process is appropriately a stand-alone procedure not incorporated into a handbook.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Many students and staff members are unaware of the Shared Governance Process at ASUJ because they seldom, if ever, have reason to consult the Faculty Handbook. It is often presumed that the Faculty Handbook addresses faculty policies and concerns, just as the student handbook and staff handbook address matters that pertain mostly to those groups.
- The authoritative documentation of the Shared Governance Process should exist as an independent document to provide each campus constituency with simple and direct access to the approved text. Because shared governance involves numerous campus constituencies, the authoritative document regarding the process should be independent of oversight by any single group. This will promote an atmosphere of inclusion among students and staff as participants in shared governance at ASUJ.

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**RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:**

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Jonesboro is approved to

- Establish the Shared Governance Process (Section I.c. in the Faculty Handbook) as a stand-alone document. The responsibility for maintenance of the policy will lie with the Shared Governance Oversight Committee (SGOC).
- Establish the Shared Governance web site at ASUJ as the official repository for documentation on all actions conducted through the shared governance process;
- Designate an individual or office (through shared governance) to manage the Shared Governance Website which will include up-to-date documentation of approved changes to the Shared Governance Process, minutes of meetings of the Shared Governance Oversight Committee (SGOC) and other shared governance committees, and any other documentation the SGOC provides to campus constituents for review.