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## Resolution and Statement on Shared Governance

Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION  
AND STATEMENT ON SHARED GOVERNANCE

Governors State University

November 20, 2008

In recent months there have been developments in various areas of our shared academic life, including the abolishment of division curriculum committees, changes in the make up of academic college level committees, proposals at the university level to restructure shared governance structures, and changes in admission criteria to various programs. These events have raised serious concerns regarding the principle of shared governance.

At its November 20, 2008 meeting, the Governors State University Faculty Senate passed a resolution endorsing the American Association of University Professors Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities (AAUP, 10<sup>th</sup> Ed., 2006)

“The [permanent not contingent] faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process”. The AAUP further states, “the faculty should have a meaningful role in establishing institutional policies, setting of standards for admission, and should be afforded opportunity for oversight of the entire admissions process”.

In its May 2005 meeting, the Governors State University Faculty Senate passed a resolution affirming these principles.

“Tenured/tenure-track faculty shall have the sole authority to develop and implement academic policies and by-laws at the program, division, department, and college levels.”

The current faculty senate (2008-9) wishes to reemphasize these general principles and therefore endorses the position that it is in the best interest of the university and its students to have academic issues and issues of student life that affect academics implemented by a relatively independent body of experts in their respective fields, which is to say that these responsibilities lie with tenured/tenure track [permanent] faculty.

The faculty senate’s stance on faculty control of academic issues and implementation of them seems consistent with the evolution of the university.