PHILOSOPHY OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

Presented to Faculty Senate
Tuesday March 1, 2016
Background

• Recognized effective university governance historically specifies roles and responsibilities for BOV, Administration, and faculty

• Varying interpretations and language used in literature, by other institutions and organizations (AAUP, AGB) and in various university and unit documents

• Continuing questions – ‘what is shared governance’ ‘what do we mean by shared governance’

• Conversation with Provost Warren and Faculty Senate several years ago and used in conversations throughout university community, in COACHE survey, etc etc

• Current statement is based on draft that originated in Faculty Senate from the conversation with Provost Warren 3 years ago and subsequently revised by Faculty Affairs this year
Intent

• Standardize statement to facilitate clear communication about meaning of shared governance
• For use in Faculty Handbook and unit by-laws
• Reinforce VCU commitment to shared governance
• Seek approval by University Council at April or May meeting
Current Status and Next Steps

• Presented a broader statement ‘for Information’ at University Council as the beginning to formalize the statement...
• Discussed with Provost Office and revised into statement of philosophy
• Shared with Staff Senate and Student Government and Faculty Senate Leadership and Council of Deans
Virginia Commonwealth University values a model of shared governance that furthers the mission of the University within a culture of collaboration, transparency and trust among and within the major university constituencies. VCU is a more efficient and effective institution when the interactions of individuals and groups are based on trust and the realization of a shared commitment to work together toward the common good of the university.

VCU values collaboration that appreciates the distinct, but mutually-supportive, responsibilities distributed among the board, the administration, faculty, staff, and students of VCU. This collaboration seeks and represents the voice of all constituencies in decisions and all matters that impact those constituencies, recognizing that shared governance is neither consensus nor democratic governance.

VCU values transparency such that constituent groups and individuals at VCU are aware of how university and unit decisions are made and the rationale for these decisions. 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.
Questions and Discussion