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 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.