January 2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

GOVERNANCE

Governance at The University of Scranton is rooted in the identity of The University as an American, Catholic, and Jesuit institution of higher education at the beginning of the twenty-first century. As our statement of mission articulates, "The University is a Catholic and Jesuit university animated by the spiritual vision and the tradition of excellence characteristic of the Society of Jesus and those who share in its way of proceeding. The University is a community dedicated to the freedom of inquiry and personal development fundamental to the growth in wisdom and integrity of all who share in its life." An effective system of governance, appropriate to this institution at this time in its history, is essential to the fulfillment of the University's mission because it is one of the primary ways in which all of the members of the University community are able to "share in its life."

Governance is *a process of consultation, communication and decision-making that produces institutional policies*. These *policies are the general guidelines that inform decision-making and the development of procedures throughout the University*. The Board of Trustees approves or ratifies policies of the University or delegates this authority to the President and other administrators of the University. Within the University, our system of governance is composed of several different elements: the Administrators' Conference, whose members can approve or decide policy; the representative governing bodies whose members recommend or advise on policy; and advisory groups whose members, as charged by the Vice President to whom they report, review material related to the development of policy and/or other University decision making processes. The level and type of consultation with each of the groups in this system will vary based on the nature of the policy item that is being reviewed, created, or discontinued. Communication among all of the groups is expected to flow in both directions and be timely, providing adequate opportunity for constituents to both receive information and share their ideas.

The representative governing bodies, by their nature, play a unique role in the life of the University. The serve as a forum for review, discussion, and consultation related to policy issues that may affect their represented constituencies.

The following statement of principles is intended to provide guidance to how these groups interact with others in governance and the constituents they represent.

Established January 2000
Revised May 2002
Revised January 2007

January 2007

The University of Scranton *Statement of Governance Principles*

Governance*: *a system of consultation, communication and decision-making that produces institutional policies.

Policy*: *the general guidelines that inform decision-making and the development of procedures. Policy is a clear statement about specific direction or purpose.

The University's Governance Principles flow directly from its Mission and are informed also by the principles enunciated in the Joint Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities (1966) formulated by the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. These principles were developed by a consensus of members of the University community and have been reviewed and endorsed by the community and its Board.

The Governance System at The University of Scranton:

A. Seeks to ensure widespread communication, understanding, participation and reasonable consensus.
B. Addresses pressing issues in a streamlined, adaptive, flexible way and encourages the appropriate use of sunset rules for committees and task forces.
C. Attempts to generate widespread understanding throughout the University community of the differences among policy-making, implementation of defined policy, and consultation regarding policy.
D. Allows stakeholders in the policy-making process to express their views and suggestions when policies affecting them are being reviewed and when the best solutions are being considered.
E. Ensures regular, two-way communication between representatives of stakeholders participating in policy-making and those they represent.
F. Seeks to guarantee that participants in the policy-making process are provided with the appropriate resources and information so that they may participate in a timely fashion.
G. Recognizes that the primary responsibility for policy-making and decision-making in each area of University life must be clearly designated.

Each governance body of The University of Scranton is responsible for ensuring that these principles are reflected in their constitutions and bylaws and otherwise upheld by their governing policies.

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