

Shared Governance Working Group

Date: May 14, 2025

Time: 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Salon C, Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

- Michelle Sullivan – Vice-Chairman, Board of Trustees (Co-chair)
- Laura Schmid-Pizzato – Treasurer, Board of Trustees (Co-chair)
- Scott Turpen – Interim Provost
- Peter Parolin – Dean, Honors College
- Rob Godby – Faculty Senate Chairman-elect
- Anne Alexander – Faculty Senate Representative
- Brad Rettler – Faculty Senate Representative
- Jesse Grosinger – Staff Senate President-elect
- Tai Baker – Staff Senate Representative
- Seth Holmquist – Staff Senate Representative
- Kameron Murfitt – ASUW President

Also in attendance: Kermit Brown – Chairman, UW Board of Trustees

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Establishing Ground Rules
3. Review of Committee Charge
4. Discussion of Shared Governance and Communication
5. Examination of UW Regulation 1-4
6. Planning and Timeline Development
7. Assignments and Next Steps

Proceedings Overview

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Co-chair Michelle Sullivan. UW Board of Trustees Chairman Kermit Brown was present and encouraged open, honest dialogue in open sessions.

Co-chair Laura Schmid-Pizzato outlined the group's purpose and working principles,

emphasizing the need for candid discussion not to rehash to past but to examine previous breakdowns in shared governance in order to develop actionable solutions that improve the work of the University as we move forward. It was noted that closed sessions may be used to facilitate transparency and trust, though open sessions are encouraged.

Faculty Senate Chair Rob Godby expressed optimism and noted that all institutions and systems need course corrections at various points.

Key Discussion Points:

- Transparency and Communication

The group agreed to post meeting minutes on the SGWG Teams site. Members are permitted and encouraged to share the minutes with their respective constituencies.

- Charge Letter Review

- The group will review shared governance documents and focus on identifying areas where processes failed or could be improved, rather than amending existing regulations.

- It will develop a framework for alignment and transparency in university decision-making, potentially modeling efforts after the Strategic Plan Working Group which was identified as an example of a successful process.

- Promoting a culture of mutual respect and trust is a top priority. Anne Alexander suggested referencing Matt Burgess's Rapid Response Dialogues – Dean Parolin also encouraged the group to get ahead of crises which places the University in a reactionary rather than proactive mindset.

- Concerns about a culture of retaliation were raised, particularly its impact on open discourse.

- Stakeholder engagement was emphasized. Jesse Grosinger described a recent meaningful departmental visit from Trustee Paul Ulrich. There was discussion about the need for clarity in decision-making authority and the importance of including members of the administration, such as the University President or cabinet representatives in the SGWG meetings.¹

- A consensus was reached to invite a member of the president's cabinet to participate. The SGWG co-chairs will determine how to select the participant. President Ed Seidel may join in an adjunct capacity at a later date.

- Meeting Cadence

The SGWG will meet monthly for two hours, preferably in person. Future meetings may be conducted in closed session to promote open conversation.

¹ In response to this discussion, member of the committee will receive documents outlining the authorities of the President and the UW Board of Trustees. Trustees Schmid Pizzato and Sullivan have also asked V.P. Kean who is on the President's cabinet to join the working group. President Seidel will be invited to participate after some initial analysis and will be briefed by the co-chairs between meetings.

Homework Assignment

Members are to:

- Reflect on specific decisions that either supported or undermined shared governance.
- Select several examples for deeper analysis.
- Consider the appropriate role and involvement of President Seidel in the SGWG's efforts.

Next Steps

Potential meeting dates in June, July, and August will be identified.

Follow up documents to share with committee:

Decision Making Authority of UW President & UW Board of Trustees
Background on Emergent Learning

The next meeting is expected to be held in closed session.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.