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Response to the PSU Faculty Senate Resolution of May 1, 2023:  
*Resolution Calling for Shared Governance in Critical Decisions*

Dear Faculty Senate:

As university President I wanted to respond to the May 1, 2023 Resolution calling for shared governance in critical decisions. I appreciate the thoughtfulness of this resolution.

Let me start by saying that I believe strongly in effective shared governance with the faculty. While I might not always get it right, it is a principle with which I strongly agree. I hope that it is evident that during my presidency I have sought to collaboratively work with the Faculty Senate regarding many issues and policy decisions for which important ideas and feedback have been obtained.

The specific instances which you identify as examples of insufficient shared governance focus on the elimination of the Covid-19 vaccination policy and the change in practice regarding armed patrol. The decision to end the vaccine mandate was based on extensive work by the Incident Management Team that made recommendations to the President and Executive Council. The decision was made based on evidence from local, state and federal authorities about effective response to the disease and guidance about the effectiveness of mandates. It was clear that the original vaccines—which were what we were requiring—were of greatly diminished value. We also understood that the mandate placed an additional burden on newly enrolling students and raised question about how to proceed with the very limited number of employees who did not comply with our mandate.

In retrospect, we could have informed relevant stakeholders about the decision and explore the issue of timing and rollout of the decision. In the future, we think we should do that with relevant stakeholders. In the case of change of practice regarding unarmed patrol, this situation necessarily needed a relatively rapid response making consultation more of a challenge. I understand the important question of consultation and the sensitivity surround campus safety and armed patrol. I want to report that we are making an important change in the context of campus safety. I am asking the University Public Safety Oversight Committee (UPSOC)—which is now working with the implementation team to review and modify the overall UPSOC charge—to modify the charge to state that our Campus Public Safety Office (CPSO) will consult with UPSOC not only on policy (which is part of the current charge) both on *and* any significant change in practice.

When I met with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, and through communications I received from the team implementing the Reimagine Campus Safety report, I heard many expressions about the need for and value of greater communication with the campus community concerning our safety situation as well as about CPSO. As a result, I have constituted a committee—including representatives from CPSO, UPSOC, University Communications, and the Reimagine Campus Safety Implementation—to develop and create plans to implement a more regularized communication plan regarding campus safety.

**I concur that there is value in UPSOC having the opportunity to appear before the Faculty Senate. I believe an invitation has been extended to and accepted by UPSOC. We believe that an annual presentation to the Faculty Senate by UPSOC makes good sense. It could also possibly include the CPSO Chief or a member of his leadership team.**

I see an important connection between the sentiments and requests in this Faculty Senate Resolution to the very significant symposium that we hosted together last month. The idea for the symposium arose from the Faculty Senate with a request for providing more opportunity for input and consultation in campus budgeting. I am very pleased that the idea of the symposium was generated by the Faculty Senate, that we planned the program very collaboratively, and that some very good feedback was obtained.

In addition to actions identified here, and in the context of our very useful symposium, the Provost and I are committed to finding ways to enhance communications with the Faculty Senate. I am forwarding this response and your Resolution to incoming President Cudd so that she is aware of our dialogue and the sentiments and requests of the Faculty Senate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Percy  
President

May 16, 2023