

Portland State University Faculty Senate Resolution  
1 May 2023

## Resolution Calling for Shared Governance in Critical Decisions

### Resolution presented by Steering Committee

*Whereas* recent administrative decisions to remove the COVID vaccine requirement and to move to armed patrols for campus police officers impact the safety and wellbeing of the entire campus community and have ripple effects into work environments, classrooms, and other interactions with students;

*Whereas* information was not shared with the campus community in advance of these decisions being announced and relevant stakeholders were not engaged before making and announcing the decisions;

*Whereas* engagement of a range of stakeholders and perspectives leads to better decisions, even and especially when such engagement requires difficult conversations including a range of perspectives and often conflicting viewpoints;

*Whereas* authentic engagement enhances stakeholder understanding of the decision-making process and contributes to buy-in for the final decision; and

*Whereas* making decisions without first sharing information and engaging stakeholders undermines the trust that is needed to build a shared vision for the future of our University;

*Be it resolved* that Faculty Senate:

- Calls on current and future administrations to engage in collaborative processes when making decisions that affect the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and community at PSU.
  - Engage in discussion with and take into consideration advice from appropriate groups, stakeholders, and/or committees prior to making a decision, especially those most likely to be impacted by these decisions.
  - Share information with the community and appropriate committees in advance of making decisions.
  - Communicate clearly about the decision-making process, including who the decision maker is, who provided input, how the input was used, and the information and rationale supporting the final decision.
- Calls on current and future administrations to engage in robust, dialogical, and continuing shared governance practices to create an environment of trust and respect in the University community.
- Calls on the administration to engage faculty with expertise in the relevant issue.

- Calls on the administration to engage students in decision making around processes and policies that impact their learning environment.
- Supports the role of oversight bodies such as the University Public Safety Oversight Committee and expects members of the administration to collaborate with and provide training and resources to such bodies so that they can carry out their charges.
- Calls on the University Public Safety Oversight Committee to report to Faculty Senate during Fall 2023 on the progress toward resuming unarmed patrols and other proactive measures related to campus safety.