
PREAMBLE

The intent of the parties hereto in carrying out their responsibilities to negotiate the terms and conditions of employment of members of the bargaining unit is to promote the quality and effectiveness of education in the State University System and to maintain high standards of academic excellence in all phases of instruction, research, and service. The parties concur that these objectives are facilitated by amicable adjustment of matters of mutual interest. It is recognized by the parties that mutual benefits are to be derived from continual improvement in the State University System, and that participation of faculty and professional employees in the formulation of policies under which they provide their services is educationally sound.

While the United Faculty of Florida (hereinafter UFF), as the elected bargaining agent, retains the exclusive right to negotiate and reach agreement on terms and conditions of employment for the members of the bargaining unit, and the Florida Board of Education (hereinafter the Board, or FBOE) retains its rights, under law, to manage and direct the State University System, the parties recognize the desirability of a collegial governance system for faculty and professional employees in areas of academic concern. It is desirable that the collegial system of shared governance be maintained and strengthened throughout the State University System so that employees will have a mechanism and procedure, independent of the collective bargaining process, for making recommendations to appropriate administrative officials.

Collegiality in academic governance on each campus of the State University System can best be accomplished through Senates selected by representatives of the appropriate campus constituencies in accordance with each institution's constitution and tradition. Appropriate matters of concern should be brought before the Senate by its members or steering committee, or by the President of the university or representatives. Among matters which may be of concern to Senates include: (a) curriculum policy and curricular structure; (b) requirements for degrees and granting of degrees; (c) policies for recruitment, admission, and retention of students; (d) the development, curtailment, discontinuance, or reorganization of academic programs; (e) grading policies; and (f) other matters of traditional concern.

In such a collegial system, departments or other traditional governance structures should play an active and responsible role in academic matters, including significant involvement in the recruitment of new faculty and professional employees, the development of high quality programs, participation in the development of tenure, promotion, and merit salary increase criteria, participation in the selection of instructional and library materials, and other matters of professional concern. The collegial relationship is most effective when peers work critically together to carry out their duties in the most professional manner possible.

In recognition of the importance of the collegial system of governance described herein, the Presidents or their representatives shall confer regularly with representatives from university Senates or equivalent bodies.

This Preamble is a statement of intent and policy and is, therefore, not subject to Article 20, Grievance Procedure.