



## Faculty Senate

### **Report from the joint FSEC-BoT Executive Committee Meeting May 18, 2023**

The meeting of FSEC and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees focused on two items:

1) Continuing discussion of operationalizing the shared governance task force recommendations.

This process is ongoing. There was agreement to move ahead now on a few items, including Board participation in new faculty orientation and faculty participation in new Board member orientation. Other items, such as participation of Board members in Faculty Senate or Senate Committee meetings, require further consideration.

2) The Board decision to arm some members of the GWPD

In the discussion, Board members emphasized that, in their view, the decision has been made; discussion now turns to implementation, for which they seek input from faculty and other members of the community. Board members described their view that this decision was their responsibility to make and that they did so after serious and sustained deliberation.

Reflecting the views expressed by many faculty members, FSEC members described the widespread frustration with the lack of shared governance in coming to the decision and the objection of many faculty members to the decision itself. FSEC members expressed the view that faculty should have been invited to participate in the decision-making process, consistent with the shared governance principles to which the Board, the administration, and the faculty have committed. FSEC members also suggested that, even if the Board felt that the decision-making authority did not rest with the faculty, faculty expertise should have been brought to bear on their deliberations. Board members indicated an interest in engaging such expertise but indicated that, on sensitive issues such as arming the police, they did not feel able to do so without the assurance of confidentiality. A number of points were raised in the discussion, including the possibility of holding town halls with the community about the decision, potential opportunities to engage faculty experts in discussion about impact and training, and the sharing of data and other sources of information the Board engaged in reaching its decision. The conversation concluded when time allotted for the meeting concluded, not because the group had reached the end of matters to consider.

Concluding discussion, FSEC members recalled the strategic investments in research and scholarship aimed at enhancing the university's preeminence that the Board has made in the past and expressed hope that such investments might be made again. Board members affirmed their interest in this as well.