

**Statement of Shared Governance**  
**Millikin University Board of Trustees**  
**Adopted May 18,2024**

The Millikin University Board of Trustees adopts the following statement of shared governance, consistent with the *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*, jointly developed by the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

Primary decision-making authority at Millikin University should reside with those who have the best expertise and the most information to make the highest-quality decisions in advancing Millikin's mission and implementing the current strategic plan. Academic decisions (curriculum, methods of instruction, research, Faculty status, and how the Faculty organizes itself) should be made primarily by the Faculty. The President, as the chief executive officer of Millikin University, has primary decision-making responsibility for strategic planning, maintenance of the resources of the institution, and most administrative actions. The Board of Trustees, under Illinois law and by its charter, has the fiduciary duty of oversight of Millikin University, the selection and evaluation of the President, and ensuring that plans are in place for excellence and the long-term sustainability of the institution. The Board of Trustees is the final decision-making authority at Millikin University.

Primary responsibility does not mean sole decision-making authority since many decisions are subject to approval by other constituencies. The essence of shared governance is soliciting input from other constituencies and typically employing an iterative process as policies and decisions evolve.

Though the Faculty, Staff, Administration, and the Board have different areas of primary responsibility, it is necessary to recognize that areas of responsibility often overlap and require collaboration. Shared governance at Millikin University requires a commitment by the Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, and Staff to these five principles of shared governance:

- A commitment to build and maintain a culture of open communication about important issues at the University.
- A commitment to find ways to jointly consider important issues, provide meaningful opportunities for input, and develop strategic directions through an iterative process.
- A commitment to jointly develop forward-looking outcomes and measures of success.
- A commitment to respect the shared governance traditions within higher education, as informed by the *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*.
- A commitment to develop systems to make timely decisions that support agility and action.

The Board of Trustees supports opportunities for students to provide input about Millikin policies that impact them, as students are essential to our purpose and functioning as a university.

This statement of support for shared governance is a statement of general philosophy that does not supplant other governing documents of Millikin University or the requirement of Illinois state law. It is further understood that there may be situations when the Administration and/or the Board of Trustees must make rapid decisions that may not allow full consultation. These situations would

include an immediate threat to Millikin University, a sensitive matter requiring confidentiality, and other instances where the well-being of the University is at stake. However, it is the goal of shared governance at Millikin University to minimize the number of important decisions that are made without the desired degree of consultation with others.

Finally, shared governance is more than a set of rules concerning primary responsibility and the process for making decisions that impact Millikin University. Effective shared governance is truly shared *responsibility* and shared *accountability* for decisions that result in Millikin's ability to deliver on the promise of excellence in education and inspire students for decades to come.