Shared Governance Task Force
Interim Report
April 10, 2019

Context

In 1976, the Board of Regents approved the Governance Document, which set forth a collegial system of governance where authority and responsibilities related to University governance would be shared so that all the University community, including the administration, faculty, staff, and students, would have opportunities to participate in University decision-making (Faculty Handbook Chapter 1 Section E). As shared governance is the foundation of University decision making, when our system of shared governance is not properly understood nor implemented, the University as a whole cannot function properly.

In the fall of 2018, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee shared results of a qualitative poll of Senators and guests present at the first general session of the fall semester (September 5, 2018) and of the faculty at large, which asked "What are the five most important issues that need to be addressed to provide Faculty Senate its 'voice' in supporting the faculty?" Of the initial poll of attendees of the first general session, nine issues were coded as being related to "shared governance." In the poll of the faculty at large, 62 issues were coded with the secondary interpretation of being "shared governance" issues. Recognizing that there was a lack of consensus about how shared governance was supposed to work at the University, the Shared Governance Task Force was tasked with identifying and comparing "perceptions, expectations, and a realistic vision of how shared governance works in our university setting."

Establishing Baselines

The task force took as its first task an attempt to help create baselines for understanding the existing shared governance system at the University as it is designed to work. To that end, the task force created two documents.

Appendix I contains the "Shared Governance Visual Model." The model attempts to map out the formal relationships and responsibilities of collegial shared governance at the University as set forth by the Faculty Handbook and other key documents. The model exists to serve two major purposes. First, as an informational tool, it exists to allow faculty members to see at a broad level the existing system of shared governance and better understand it. Second, as a diagnostic tool, it exists to help University stakeholders to analyze where breakdowns in the shared governance system are occurring and identify where relationships between elements in the system could be improved or where new formal relationships need to be created.

Appendix II contains the "Shared Governance Cheat Sheet." This document exists as a "table of contents" for defining shared governance authority, responsibilities, and relationships at the University. It lists various loci of authority in the University's shared governance system and identifies where to find the formal definitions of their roles and responsibilities. Similar to the visual model, it is both an
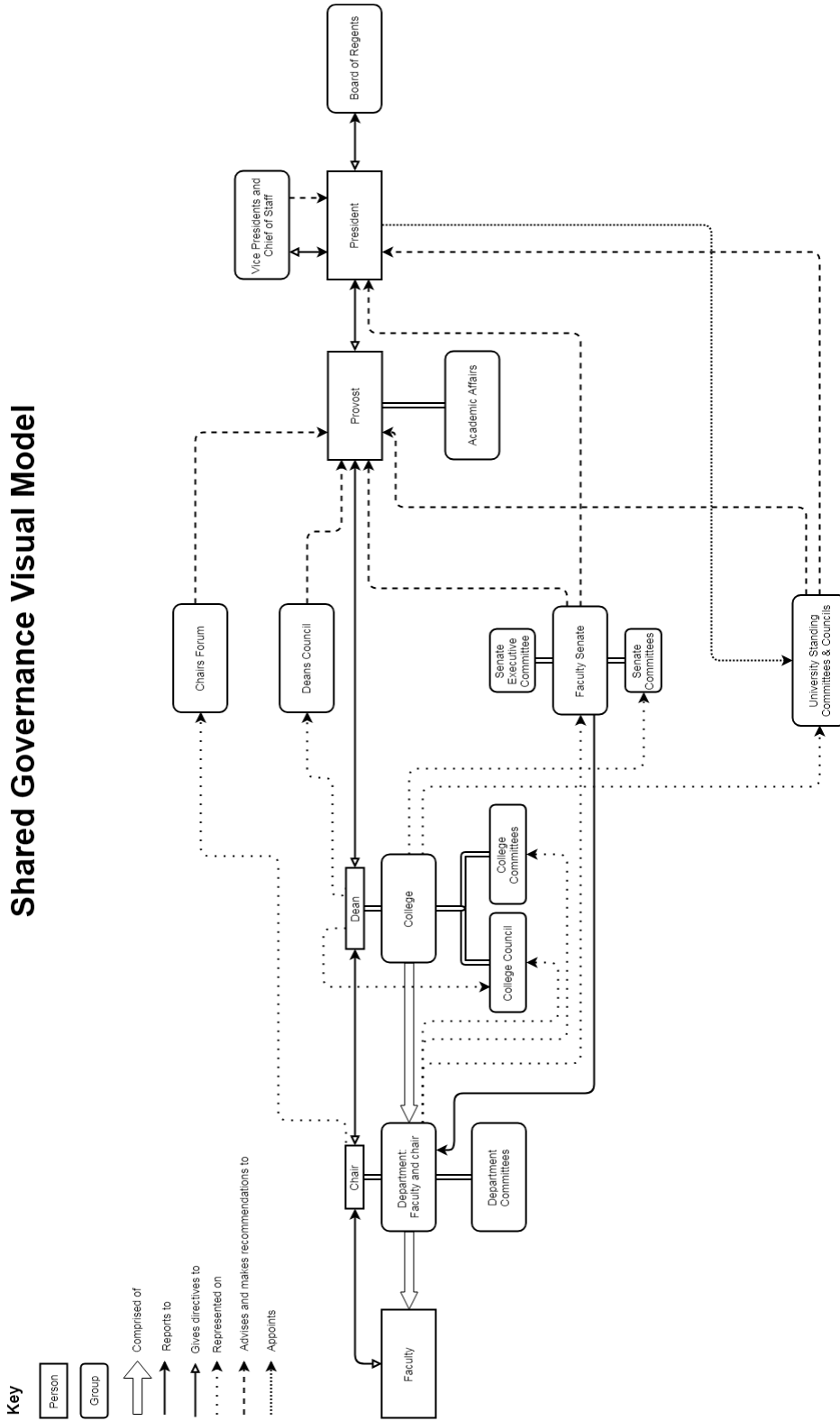
informational and a diagnostic tool. As an informational tool, it helps faculty members to identify where to learn about how the shared governance system works so that they may participate in it in an informed manner. As a diagnostic tool, by helping faculty members learn how the shared governance system is designed to work, it allows them to recognize where it is not working correctly.

Future Work

To successfully meet its charge, the Shared Governance Task Force will need to reconvene during the 2019-20 academic year. During that time, the task force seeks to provide a more elaborate overview of how shared governance roles have been understood at the University, meet with stakeholders in the shared governance system, engage in in wide-ranging information-gathering on the state of shared governance at the University, and investigate formal and informal communication channels in the shared governance system. The task force will then submit a final report evaluating and setting out a vision for shared governance at the University.

Appendix 1: Shared Governance Visual Model

Shared Governance Visual Model

Key

Person
Group

Comprised of
Reports to
Gives directives to
Represented on
Advises and makes recommendations to
Appoints

Board of Regents
Vice Presidents and Chief of Staff
President
Provost
Academic Affairs
Chairs Forum
Deans Council
Senate Executive Committee
Faculty Senate
Senate Committees
University Standing Committees & Councils
Dean
College
College Committees
College Council
Chair
Department: Faculty and chair
Department Committees
Faculty

Appendix 2: Shared Governance Cheat Sheet

Where to find the official roles & responsibilities of various stakeholders in shared governance at Southeast Missouri State University.

Department

- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section F10
- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section G2

Chair

- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section F9
- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section G2

Chairpersons' Forum

- Chairpersons' Forum By-Laws & Constitution Articles II and III

College

- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section G3

Dean

- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section F8
- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section G3

Council of Deans

- Council of Deans Charge

Faculty Senate

- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section G4
- Faculty Handbook Ch. 8 Section A Articles II and VII
- Faculty Handbook Ch. 8 Section B7

Provost

- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section E4

President

- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section E3

Board of Regents

- Missouri Revised Statutes Chapter 174.010 et seq.
- Board of Regents By-Laws
- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section D

University Standing Committees and Councils

- Faculty Handbook Ch. 1 Section G5

Documents

Board of Regents By-Laws: https://semo.edu/pdf/bor_bylaws.pdf

Chairpersons' Forum By-Laws & Constitution: [link forthcoming]

Council of Deans Charge: https://semo.edu/provost/47263.html

Faculty Handbook: https://semo.edu/facultysenate/handbook/

Missouri Revised Statutes Chapter 174: http://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneChapter.aspx?chapter=174