



## **Motion 2014- 02**

### **Student Participation in UA Shared-Governance**

**MOTION:** “The Coalition of Student Leaders requests letters of endorsement from Statewide each fall, or each semester, to announce student participation in UA shared-governance and to assure compliance with the UA BOR Policy and University Regulations. The letter will be given to the Coalition members to share with their course instructors and any university staff involved with student employment. A copy shall be sent to the Provost and, if the student is on a community campus, to the campus director.”

**Rationale:** Students have received admonishments for their participation in student government activities and meetings that are important to their constituencies. Students have received, and/or have been threatened with failing grades for missing classes for attending governance meetings and activities. Taking part in these meetings and activities are part of being a good student leader. Students have been administratively dropped from courses due to participation in student leadership activities. Students are not afforded adequate time by professors/instructors to complete work when actively participating in student government meetings and activities. In addition, there are instances of emails and comments in class that are unnecessarily derogatory and harsh that originate from professors/instructors and supervisors. These actions inhibit student involvement due to fear of reprisal. According to policy, these are acts of bullying. Individuals entrusted with mentoring and preparing students for future careers perpetrate these actions, and it must end immediately. These actions are damaging to students and their involvement with the university and, they are contrary to the university’s mission, and they impair the reputation of the university and its community members. These actions should not take place according to the following UA Board of Regents’ Policies:

P03.01.010

A. The opportunity for faculty, staff and students to participate in the governance of the university is important to its effective operation and the board intends for faculty, staff and student participation in university governance to be an integral part of the university community’s culture.

P03.01.010.

D. Governance organizations shall carry out their functions subject to the authority of the board and the president and chancellors. The organizations’ purposes are to:

1. provide an effective opportunity for university faculty, staff and students to play a meaningful role in matters effecting their welfare;

2. represent the viewpoints of university faculty, staff and students on regents' policy, university regulation and other matters affecting the interests of the university.
3. address through legislative action other matters as described in their approved constitutions;
4. advise the president and chancellors in a timely fashion and in a manner set forth in individual organizational constitutions; and
5. communicate to faculty, staff and students information which is of interest and concern to the university.

P03.01.010

F. Participants in governance shall carry out their governance responsibilities in good faith and to the best of their abilities without fear of reprisal. Spokespersons for governance groups may present their views directly to the board in accordance with board procedures.

P09.07.050

A. The president will promulgate university regulation establishing the structure of systemwide and MAU student government. MAU student governments and the chancellor or designee will collaborate in the initiation, development, and proper functioning of student government as an integral part of the total educational experience.

P09.01.060. Student Participation in University Committees.

The president and chancellors will be responsible for providing opportunities for student participation in institutional and campus committees, as they deem appropriate. An individual student's participation may be restricted when the student's academic progress is in jeopardy or as a result of a finding of student misconduct.

P09.01.090. Prohibitions on Reprisal and Retaliation.

No student who is acting in good faith will be subject to restraint, interference, coercion, reprisal, or retaliation for initiating a request or complaint, or for participating in any proceeding, that is designed to foster compliance with regents' policy, university regulation, or MAU rules and procedures. Students accused of acting in bad faith may be subject to action under regents' policy, university regulation, and MAU rules and procedures regarding student rights and responsibilities.

P09.01.030. Responsibility and Scope of Student Services.

B. Students will be eligible to participate in appropriate student services programs unless their eligibility is administratively restricted or unless otherwise restricted by regents' policy, university regulation, or MAU rules and procedures.

DocuSigned by:  
*Shauna Thornton* April 30, 2014

Shauna Thornton, Speaker Date

Voted on at the April 18, 2014 Coalition of Student Leaders' meeting.

Voting members' results as attested by LaNora Tolman, Executive Officer, System Governance:

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstain: 1

Absent: 3

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**For action by the President of the University of Alaska**

Approved: TK Gamble Date: 1 May 14

Modified: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: