

University Senate
Summary of Main Ideas from the Shared Governance Session
at the Senate Retreat on August 8th, 2012

What are your expectations for shared governance at Georgia College?

- Civility and respect during discussions/debates x 20
- University Senate is meaningful (not just for show) x 10
- Genuinely “shared” governance/responsibility x 8
- Provide all stakeholders with access and the opportunity to participate (issue of power dynamics) x 8
- Transparency from administration & faculty x 4
- Senate participation is valued x 4
- Place to get together on common ground x 3
- Communication and engagement x 2

What are your responsibilities as a senator?

- Show up & participate x 11
- Communication and dissemination of information x 7
- Represent your views and your constituents’ views x 7
- Build trust and respect x 6
- Accountability and transparency x 4
- Stay informed about (too much time spent reviewing what people should know) x 6
 - higher education issues in general
 - university level issues
 - issues on other committees
 - your department and college

How can we engage the university community in shared governance?

- Promote communication
 - Broadcast success
 - Make it short and sweet
 - Newsletter/notes from Senate Presiding Officer (email to all faculty, staff, and SGA)
 - Easier access to minutes and reports
 - User-friendly/reader-friendly minutes
 - User-friendly website
 - Colonnade
- Sense of community
 - Introduce everyone each meeting
 - Start using nametags at meetings and recognizing visitors
- Constituency buy-in
 - Report out at department and college meetings
 - Face-to-face discussion with constituents
 - Solicit feedback from constituents
 - Communicate highlights of senate activities
- Senator selection / representation
 - More at-large senators
 - Senator selection within a department is subject to department policies and politics
 - Not everyone feels they have representation / access to participate
 - One senator per department, the rest at-large
- Promote University Senate at new faculty orientation
- Adding a mechanism for all-faculty votes for relevant issues