

## Shared governance in the COE

Fall 2006:

The College of Education is in its sixth year of a system of shared governance. A college constitution guides the operation of the Faculty Policy Council and is assisted in its work through nine standing committees. This year the COE is revising its annual report guidelines to make shared governance work more visible and valued. In addition, upcoming conversations with department chairs will address the issue of considering shared governance work in merit determinations. Also, the COE will develop this year a system for annual periodic assessment by the faculty of the effectiveness of shared governance.

Spring 2007:

The College of Education implemented its first assessment of shared governance this spring by sending a three-question open-ended survey to faculty. The survey includes the following questions: (1) What do you think shared governance should mean? (2) What's going well in shared governance in the College of Education? (3) What should be improved in shared governance in the College of Education? The surveys will be analyzed during the fall semester by a new committee called the Shared Governance Advisory Committee. This committee will assess the status of shared governance in the COE, including such tasks as conducting deans' evaluations and the annual evaluation of the effectiveness of shared governance in the COE, and providing feedback to COE faculty and deans and to the UF Senate.

The Faculty Policy Council (FPC) approved some changes in the governance structure for next year, including revising the roles of 2 standing committees, establishing 2 new committees, and placing 2 existing committees on hiatus. The FPC will monitor the changes next year to determine their effectiveness. If the changes are deemed effective, the COE Constitution will be amended to reflect them.

Major accomplishments of the FPC this year include approval of a Faculty Mentoring Policy and a policy for Promotion of Lecturers and Scholars. In addition, the FPC made significant progress in developing criteria for tenure and promotion in the COE and on clarifying a role for faculty in budget decisions.