On Shared Governance

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences believes that inclusive decision-making produces better decisions and outcomes and also creates stronger connections among faculty working toward common cause.

SBS acknowledges the importance of Article VIII of the General Constitution, “The College Faculties,” which notes the following:

General Faculty members should only be excluded from those shared governance activities that are not relevant to their contract status (e.g., voting on a Promotion and Tenure committee composition; emeritus faculty participation on an annual performance review committee, etc.). Any such exclusions should be detailed in College or unit Bylaws.

At the College level, tenure-eligible, tenured, continuing eligible, continuing status, and career track faculty actively participate in committees such as Undergraduate and Graduate Councils, the Faculty Advisory Committee, and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, among others.

On Voting

With respect to voting rights, the College supports and has adopted the same criteria adopted by the General Faculty of the University of Arizona, as indicated in their Constitution. For the purposes of College governance, the General Faculty of SBS at the University of Arizona comprises:

a. Individuals who hold at least half-time tenured or tenure-eligible faculty appointments,
b. Academic professionals who hold at least half-time continuing or continuing-eligible appointments,
c. Individuals who hold at least half-time multi-year Career Track appointments,
d. Individuals who have held at least half-time year-to-year Career Track faculty appointments for three (3) of the past four (4) years and who currently hold lecturer or ranked professorial titles that do not include an adjunct or visiting modifier, and
e. Individuals who hold Emeritus status.

SBS therefore encourages units to approach decisions on shared governance and voting rights with attention to the contributions that different populations can make. Specific to voting rights, units are encouraged to solicit input from all stakeholders prior to determining appropriate voting rights, and to limit voting rights by faculty contract status only where warranted by category and rank, as in promotion and tenure decisions.