**West Liberty UniversityStatement of Shared Governance**

**DRAFT 2/18/2014**

Shared governance at West Liberty University is the set of principles and practices by which stakeholders – including faculty, administration, classified staff, students, the Board of Governors and alumni – participate in the important decisions regarding the operation of the university. WLU’s shared governance maintains that, while ultimate legal authority and accountability rest with the Board andAdministration, all stakeholders have a vested interest *–* as pertains to their roles, duties, and assignments –to participate in the governance of the institution. Accordingly, WLU affirms that successful shared governance is founded upon interdependence and relies upon good faith consultation among relevant stakeholders prior to decision-making.

These principles further characterize shared governance at WLU:

* Recognition and respect for the many and varied roles that stakeholders in the University community perform, including the special governance role of the academy as relates to academic matters;
* Timely disclosure and clear communication of information needed to participate meaningfully in the discourse that makes good policy and practice;
* Opportunity for all stakeholders in the University community to provide input*—*respective to their roles, duties, and responsibilities*—*for decisions that will affect them before those decisions are made;
* Inclusive dialogue that respects divergent perspectives.

Stakeholders are represented by and participate in a variety of interdependent institutional entities that embody and enact the principles of collegial shared governance. These entities, which include, but are not limited to, the University Planning Council, Deans’ Council, Faculty Senate, Classified Staff Council, Curriculum Committee, Student Government Association, and Residence Life Advisory Board, strive to honor and practice the principles of shared governance.