Right to Participate in Governance

Students at the University of Wisconsin are encouraged to participate in the governance of each institution in accordance with Section 36.09(5), Wis. Stats., which states:

The students of each institution or campus subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president, the chancellor and the faculty shall be active participants in the immediate governance of and policy development for such institutions. As such, students shall have primary responsibility for the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services and interests. Students in consultation with the chancellor and subject to the final confirmation of the board shall have the responsibility for the disposition of those student fees which constitute substantial support for campus student activities. The students of each institution or campus shall have the right to organize themselves in a manner they determine and to select their representatives to participate in institutional governance.

At the University of Wisconsin Colleges, student participation in the governance process is highly valued. If you are interested in becoming active in the governance of your campus or of the institution, you may wish to contact the student activities coordinator or the student government officers at your campus. In addition to the campus student government organizations, the University of Wisconsin Colleges also has a Student Governance Council which has representatives from each campus student government organization.

UW Colleges Shared Vision Statement

Students, faculty, academic staff, classified staff and administrators of the UW Colleges, in partnership with area residents, form a community of learners. Together they share the responsibility of promoting the mission of the University of Wisconsin to expand and disseminate knowledge and enrich the culture. Within the supportive and challenging environments of the colleges, students of all ages and backgrounds are prepared for advanced educational and professional achievement, lifelong learning, leadership, and responsible citizenship.

In order to realize the mission, all members of the UW Colleges community have a responsibility to promote and a right to expect:

Respect for Persons: Basic to respect is the freedom of inquiry and expression - the right to be heard and the obligation to listen. Respect is mutual; it is founded on the recognition that members of the community are multi-faceted with many gifts and challenges and come from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. The campus environment should be free from intimidation and harassment. Disagreement within the community is expected to be resolved through a process of mutual respect.
**Personal Integrity:** All community members must meet high standards of personal and academic integrity. Recognizing the value of others' time and effort, they strive to be accurate, to be timely, and to evaluate critically. Views should be presented honestly; taking credit where credit is not due contradicts the goals of learning.

**Individual Development:** Initiative, critical thinking, the pursuit of truth and the exchange of ideas are essential to any academic experience. Community members should be committed to continuous improvement in themselves and others. All should be prepared to devote whatever time and effort is necessary both to educate and be educated. As the learning community fosters self-development, it should provide ample and accurate advising. Opportunities for professional development and training are essential for individual growth.

**Considerate Assessment:** The learning environment requires considerate assessment. The criteria for assessment should be mutually acknowledged, public and unambiguous. Assessment should be ongoing, focusing not only on individual community members, but also on the educational process itself. The community helps its members to identify and assess their various responsibilities.

**Responsive Institution:** Each member of the community has a right and a responsibility to contribute to the success of the institution. The university should provide a responsive curriculum, smooth transfer procedures, and fair grievance processes and policies. All segments should be involved in budgeting and other long-range planning. Leaders seek and respect input gained through the shared governance process, so that decisions are made in the best interests of all members. Institutional and campus policies contribute to the success of all members of the community.