

Shared Governance

"It takes years of rank and the bitter-sweet experience of extensive committee service to realize that faculty influence on the operation of the university is an illusion, and that shared governance is a myth." [Shared Governance is a Myth](#), *Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 6, 2011.

"There is a simple way to judge whether the old (a community of students and scholars) or the new idea (business ventures) of the university prevails in an institution. If education is primarily a business, managers hire the faculty. If universities are communities of students and scholars, faculty members hire the managers. The difference between the two strategies is immense, because it determines the locus of power. Looked at from this perspective, it is even clearer that in today's universities, faculty members are employees with no say in the operation of their institutions." *Id.*

Comment from reader of Shared Governance Is a Myth

hill210 - February 08, 2011 at 05:31 pm

I could identify with many aspects of this article. I used to think that Shared Governance and Academic Freedom were myths, like the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus...but I've actually seen a lot more evidence of the existence of the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus.

Id.

Regardless of the prattle about academic freedom and shared governance found in the Faculty Handbook, does any faculty member at Southern Miss doubt that the managers view the University of Southern Mississippi as a business venture (albeit, a poorly managed one). Does any faculty member believe that shared governance and academic freedom really exist at Southern Miss?

usmnews.net is interested in hearing thoughts from faculty and managers – on either side of the debate.