



## GOVERNANCE

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*2023-2024*

Active student participation is a central aspect of the governance system at Messiah University. The Student Government Association (SGA) appoints students to membership on standing committees of the University.

## **UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

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The University Council consists of representatives from every University constituency. The Council makes recommendations to the President who is charged with making the final decision or final recommendation to the Board regarding issues such as strategic plan, institutional facilities initiatives and priorities, annual budget parameters and budget, salary and benefits, personnel policies and procedures, substantive issues of University image and marketing, new non- curricular and non-cocurricular University programs and initiatives which significantly impact the University's basic philosophy and mission and/or significantly impact the allocation of financial and staffing resources. The SGA President and the SGA Vice President of Finance participate in this Council.

## **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

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The following councils and committees all have student representation, with voting privileges:

### **Academic Council**

The Academic Council proposes academic policies and programs and advises on academic matters and administrative issues related to the academic program. A subcommittee of the Academic Council reviews student academic petitions and appeals. The SGA President serves on the Academic Council.

### **Assessment of Student Learning**

The Assessment of Student Learning committee guides and supports the assessment of student learning while promoting a culture of inquiry among Messiah University educators in order to enhance student learning. One student serves on this committee as appointed by the Director of Academic Assessment.

### **Cocurricular Education Council**

The Cocurricular Education Council develops and periodically reviews the University's philosophy of cocurricular education in the context of University mission and identity, University-wide educational objectives, and cocurricular principles and suggests changes. The SGA vice president of organizations and one other student as appointed by SGA serve on this committee.

### **University Review Board**

This Board serves as a subcommittee of the Community Standards Committee. Its responsibilities include the handling of all student discipli-

nary matters involving major or repeated violations and all appeals from other hearing bodies under the guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook. The two students appointed by SGA to the Community Standards Committee also serve as members of this Board.

### **Community of Educators Senate**

The Community of Educators Senate is comprised of representatives from each constituent group of the Community of Educators. The Community of Educators Senate is a representative body with the authority to act on behalf of the Community of Educators. Among the responsibilities are curricular changes in existing curricular programs, curricular structure for general education, curricular policies, cocurricular policies, admissions requirements, graduation requirements, approval of University graduates. Membership includes the vice president of SGA with voice but no vote.

### **Community Involvement Advisory Committee**

The Community Involvement Advisory Committee develops and periodically reviews strategies for organizing and disseminating information about community involvement to the broader Messiah community administrators, faculty, staff and students. This committee also provides counsel to faculty and students needing assistance with community based program initiatives. One student is appointed by SGA.

### **Community Standards Committee**

The Community Standards Committee develops and reviews major changes in student behavioral standards and policies that support the Community Covenant and advance a campus ethos consistent with institutional mission. A subcommittee of this group serves as the University Review Board, which handles student disciplinary matters involving major or repeated violations. The chair of the peer review board and one student appointed by SGA serve on this committee.

### **Curriculum Committee**

The Curriculum Committee reviews curricular requirements and courses for approved new academic programs and approves changes for all curricular programs. One student is appointed by SGA.

### **Diversity Committee**

The Diversity Committee is the central committee that oversees all aspects of inclusive excellence initiatives on campus. Its task is to assist the University community in attaining institution-wide excellence in education through the pursuit of diversity and inclusiveness. This committee oversees committees and working groups that address specific aspects of diversity on campus that pursue specific agendas related to the Diversity Strategic Plan. The vice president of Diversity Affairs serves on this committee.

### **Educational Technology Committee**

The Educational Technology Committee develops and maintains a philosophy and strategic plan for educational technology. It responds in an advisory fashion to proposals for major changes in services provided to faculty, students, and/or the University as a whole by Information Technology Services. Two students are appointed by SGA.

### **First-Year Experience Committee**

The First-Year Experience Committee provides oversight to the purpose, objectives, and programs associated with the first university year. The committee reviews curricular and cocurricular strategies to ensure a smooth transition from high school to the first university year and to ensure that all first-year students begin the process of understanding what it means to be an educated person according to the institution's mission and values. One sophomore student is appointed by the Vice Provost for Student Success and Engagement.

### **Gender Concerns Committee**

The Gender Concerns Committee educates, encourages, and empowers students and employees to become agents for change and transformation concerning gender issues on campus and beyond. Two students—one male and one female—are appointed by SGA and two students are appointed by the committee.

### **General Education Committee**

The General Education Committee reviews the structure, courses, and guidelines for the general education program. The committee also reviews appeals from students regarding the satisfaction of curricular requirements. One student is appointed by SGA.

### **Information and Web Technology Committee**

The Information Technology Committee recommends additions and modifications to policies related to information technology. One student is appointed by SGA.

### **International Student Advisory Committee**

The International Student Advisory Committee reviews and addresses special needs that international students may encounter at the University. The president and vice president of ISA/MuKappa serve on this committee.

### **Library Committee**

The Library Committee develops policies relative to acquisition and use of library materials, library services, and conduct in the library. Two students are appointed by SGA.

### **The Oakes Museum Committee**

The Oakes Museum Committee reviews the Museum's mission statement, policies, programming and outcomes, and proposes appropriate modifications and serves in an advisory capacity to the Museum Director. One student with a major in the Department of Biological Sciences is appointed by the department chair.

#### **Peace and Conflict Studies Committee**

The Peace and Conflict Studies Committee reviews the mission and goals of the Peace and Conflict Studies Initiative and establishes criteria for developing and recommending elective courses for the peace and conflict studies minor. Two students are appointed by the director of The Sider Institute.

#### **Sustainability Committee**

The Sustainability Committee provides oversight and direction for sustainability initiatives at the University and ensures that the requirements of the President's Climate Commitment are met. They develop information and talking points that tell the story of the University's work on sustainability for various groups to use and also review and maintain the Sustainability website. Two student representatives serve on the committee representing Earth Keepers and Agape Center Sustainable Agriculture.

#### **Teacher Education Committee**

The Teacher Education Committee develops policies relative to all areas of teacher certification. Two students are appointed by the Messiah University Education Association – one in education and one non-education.

### **COMMUNITY OF EDUCATORS**

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The Community of Educators consists of educators whose primary role is to directly help students attain the University-Wide Educational Objectives through curricular and cocurricular programming or who supervise those having this primary role. Members of the Community of Educators, who have at least a Master's degree, include faculty (term-tenure track faculty, clinical track faculty, lecturers, librarians, and curricular administrators) and cocurricular educators (professionals in Athletics, Career Center, Campus Ministries, Counseling, Residence Life, Community Development, Off Campus Programs, International Student Programs, Multicultural Programs, and Student Engagement). Educational means devoted to helping students attain these objectives can be categorized into curricular and cocurricular programming, with curricular programs defined as those that lead to academic credit for the students and cocurricular programs being defined as programs that do not

lead to academic credit. Recognizing the complementary and mutually enriching nature of these two types of programming, it is nevertheless important, for the purposes of governance, to make a functional distinction between educators primarily involved with curricular programs and educators primarily involved with cocurricular programming.