

Shared Governance Working Group



A Year in Review

September 23rd, 2026

The
**NATIONAL
PUBLIC
HONORS**
College

Charter & Composition



- ❖ Established by Pres. Phillips in October of 2025 to develop a statement on principles of shared governance and to identify specific recommendations for the administration to improve shared governance at St. Mary's College of Maryland.
- ❖ Members include the Presidents of the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Student Government Association, plus an additional designee from each constituency, as well as one trustee and one representative from the President's Office.

Action One: Statement on Principles



- ❖ Drafted during the winter of 2025 to articulate both guiding and operating principles of shared governance at SMCM.
- ❖ Grounded by the St. Mary's Way and sector-wide best practices, principles include accountability, effective communication, inclusiveness, transparency, and trust.
- ❖ Approved by the Board of Trustees in February of 2026.

Action Two: Annual Board Calendar



- ❖ Drafted during the spring of 2026 to improve situational awareness across campus constituencies regarding Board timelines and decisions.
- ❖ Provides an annual breakdown of Board actions by meeting and by Committee of jurisdiction.
- ❖ Published in May of 2026.

Action Three: Additional “Quick Wins”



- ❖ Identified during the spring of 2026 to address specific concerns raised by faculty, staff, and student representatives.
- ❖ Highlights include: the return of Staff Senate reports to the Board, regular meetings between constituency representatives and the Board Chair / President, increased communication before and after Board meetings, and equal access to email communication channels.
- ❖ Implemented during the summer and fall of 2026.

Fall '26 Plans: Town Hall Series



- ❖ Purpose: Share SGWG progress and create meaningful engagement opportunities for all faculty, staff, and students to share ideas, concerns, and recommendations regarding campus governance procedures.
- ❖ Structure: Constituency-based and conversational.
- ❖ Schedule
 - ❖ Staff – November 4th at 10:30am
 - ❖ Students – November 5th at 11:30am
 - ❖ Faculty – November 9th at 11:30am



Thank you! Questions?