



**TO: New Faculty and Academic Staff**  
**FROM: Ken Menningen, Chair, Common Council**  
**SUBJECT: Shared Governance**  
**DATE: August 2015**

Welcome to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point! I am writing to introduce you to shared governance, which has traditionally played a strong role on the UW-Stevens Point campus. Shared governance gives faculty and academic staff administrative responsibility over academic activities, and all university personnel (academic staff, faculty, and university staff) play an important role in recommending policies to the administration in many other areas. Common Council is the representative body of academic staff, faculty, and university staff in UW-Stevens Point shared governance. Chancellor Patterson has demonstrated a commitment to strong shared governance, the success of which depends upon the administration's openness to listening to and consulting with university personnel, as well as upon the university personnel's willingness to participate in this important responsibility.

Chapter 36 of the Wisconsin Statutes directs the faculty and academic staff to determine its own organization to participate in institutional governance. The Board of Regents Policy Document, "Classified Staff Governance" (September 6, 2013) provides university staff members the opportunity to be active participants in the immediate governance of and policy development for the institution. It also allows for university staff to determine its own organization to participate in institutional governance. The *Constitution of the Common Council* specifies the Common Council as the primary governance representative body. All members of the university may attend and speak at meetings of the Common Council, but only members of the Common Council may offer motions, second motions, or vote. The Common Council meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month during the academic year, beginning at 3 p.m. in Room 116 CPS.

The *Constitution of the Common Council* is available on the Common Council website: [www.uwsp.edu/commoncouncil](http://www.uwsp.edu/commoncouncil) and the shared governance SharePoint site, myCommonCouncil, under "Reference Materials": <https://committees.uwsp.edu/commoncouncil>. In addition to the constitution, shared governance meeting agendas, meeting materials, minutes and attachments are accessible through myCommonCouncil.

Within the Common Council structure, each personnel category has a representative standing committee council:

- academic staff: Academic Staff Council
- faculty: Faculty Council
- university staff: University Staff Council

A chart depicting the UWSP Shared Governance Organizational Structure is provided below. This chart details the shared governance structure, which includes the chancellor, Common Council, Faculty Senate, Executive Committee, standing committees, and permanent subcommittees.

Please consider how you might participate in shared governance, whether by serving on a committee, by running for the Common Council, or by sharing your perspective at a governance meeting. If you would like more information or would like to discuss governance in general, please call me (ext. 3360) or any other member of the Executive Committee. An up-to-date listing of Executive Committee members is always available on the Common Council website.

