Shared Governance Constitution
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

We, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff ("UAPB" or "University"), affirm that effective institutional governance is strengthened through meaningful participation of faculty, staff, and students in an advisory capacity to the Chancellor.

This Constitution establishes the framework for shared governance at UAPB in alignment with policies of the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees.

This document (a) defines the roles, authority, and relationships among governance bodies; (b) establishes advisory structures for institutional decision-making; and (c) ensures alignment with applicable Board policies, system procedures, and institutional priorities.

All additional operational procedures, membership structures, and internal processes of governance bodies shall be defined in separate bylaws, which may be amended at the campus level.

1.1 DEFINITIONS

Chancellor
The Chief Executive Officer of UAPB, appointed by the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the President.

Administration
Employees holding administrative titles including but not limited to directors, deans, vice chancellors, chief of staff, and Chancellor.

Faculty
Employees holding academic rank (e.g., instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, professor, librarian, extension specialist with academic rank).

Staff
Employees who are not faculty or administrators.

Student
Any individual enrolled at UAPB and in good academic standing.

2.0 AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 Role of the Chancellor

The Chancellor is responsible for the leadership, management, and administration of UAPB, subject to:

- University of Arkansas Board of Trustees policies;
- Applicable federal and state laws; and
- University of Arkansas System procedures.

The Chancellor:

- Serves as the final institutional decision-maker on all matters of governance;
- Establishes administrative and advisory structures to support institutional effectiveness; and
- Serves as the official liaison between the University and the President, Board of Trustees, and external stakeholders.

2.2 Shared Governance Framework

Shared governance at UAPB is exercised through three independent, representative advisory bodies:

1. Faculty Senate
2. Staff Senate
3. Student Government Association (SGA)

Each body:

- Operates in an advisory capacity to the Chancellor;
- Represents the interests and perspectives of its respective constituency; and
- Develops recommendations within its defined scope.

These bodies function independently but may collaborate on matters of institutional significance.

3.0 GOVERNING BODIES

3.1 Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate is the representative body of the faculty and advises the Chancellor on academic matters, including but not limited to:

- Curriculum and academic programs
- Academic policies and standards
- Faculty welfare and professional responsibilities
- Academic planning and institutional effectiveness

3.2 Staff Senate

The Staff Senate is the representative body of staff and advises the Chancellor on matters including:

- Staff welfare and working conditions
- Professional development and engagement
- Institutional operations affecting staff
- Communication between staff and administration

3.3 Student Government Association (SGA)

The Student Government Association represents the student body and advises the Chancellor on matters including:

- Student experience and quality of life
- Institutional policies affecting students
- Student services and engagement
- Campus climate and student success

3.4 Advisory Nature of Governance Bodies

All governance bodies:

- Serve in an advisory capacity only;
- Do not possess independent decision-making authority over institutional operations and;
- Submit formal recommendations to the Chancellor for consideration.

3.5 Transmission and Review of Recommendations

Recommendations from any governance body shall be submitted to the Chancellor. Within two weeks, the Chancellor shall either:

- Provide a written response indicating approval, modification, or non-approval; or
- Request additional information or analysis.

3.6 Escalation Process

If a governance body does not receive favorable action:

- The matter may be shared with the other governance bodies for consideration;
- Upon a three-fifths (3/5) vote of each of the three bodies, the issue may be forwarded to the President of the University of Arkansas System;
- The President may determine whether the matter warrants review by the Board of Trustees.

4.0 BYLAWS

Each governance body shall develop and maintain its own bylaws, which will include:

- Membership and representation
- Election procedures
- Officer roles and responsibilities
- Committees and operational processes
- Meeting structure and procedures:
  (1) Meeting notices and the tentative agenda shall be publicized at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting;
  (2) Meetings shall be open to all represented persons, although floor privileges may be limited;
  (3) Minutes of the meetings shall be made available to all members of the governance structure and the Chancellor promptly following the meeting. The minutes shall also be archived and made accessible to the public upon request.

Bylaws must:

- Be consistent with this Constitution; and
- Align with University of Arkansas System policies.

Bylaws may be amended at the institutional level and do not require Board approval.

5.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Amendments to this Constitution shall:

1. Be approved by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of each governance body;
2. Be submitted to the Chancellor for review;
3. Be forwarded to the President of the University of Arkansas System; and
4. Require approval by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees.

May 21, 2026 (Approved)
BP 1510.1 Revision Dates:
January 19, 1996
June 25, 1976