

*** PREAMBLE FOR ASPPC MOTIONS # 1 AND #2 (10/14/2014)**

It is well established that the primary purpose of a university is to educate students and to prepare them to become useful individuals who can make promising contributions to their country and the universe. What is not so well established, however, is a consensus about whom in the university is primarily responsible for determining how best to achieve that honorable mission.

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP), a lynchpin in providing support and stability in the governance of public and private higher education, advocates that the faculty has a primary role in governance. The essential constituents of a university are its faculty and students. Without a faculty and students, no college or university would exist. The perception and commitment of the early overseers, administrators, faculty, and student's influence were extremely important in the early development and success of public higher education in the nation's capital. The absence of comprehensive public higher education in the District of Columbia until 1968 is a classic example of the injustices that citizens can suffer when they deny them a voice in determining their own destiny.

Eager to accept the Congressional Legislation (Public Law 89-791) that created comprehensive public higher education in the District of Columbia in 1968, trustees, administrators, faculty, and students embraced the democratic model of shared governance in the development of a postsecondary educational system that would fit primarily the needs of District residents and non-residents who would select to attend.

Presently, however, the socioeconomic conditions coupled with negative city politics has changed toward the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) and its role in providing comprehensive public higher education for its residents.

As full-time faculty members hired at UDC, the District of Columbia's only comprehensive public university given to the residents by Public Law 89-791, we claim our rightful role as having the primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life that relate to the educational process. Further, the faculty is the essential employees of the university and without the faculty there is no University of the District of Columbia; therefore, the faculty must play a central role in governance.