

# National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.

## Shared Governance Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What is shared governance?**

A. Shared governance is a system of rules and policies that serve to engage individuals and groups to participate in decision-making. The responsibility and accountability for decisions is shared by members of the group. The objective of shared governance is to afford those who are impacted when a decision is made to have an opportunity to express opinions and participate in the decision-making process.

### **Q. What are the tools of shared governance?**

A. There are several tools that assist in the shared governance decision-making process. They include, but are not limited to:

- local, state, and national laws and regulations;
- articles of incorporation;
- NSNA bylaws, policies, and procedures (Guidelines Booklet);
- NSNA code of ethics (Code of Professional Conduct; Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct);
- *Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for Students of Nursing* and grievance procedure guidelines;
- *Getting the Pieces to Fit* (NSNA Handbook);
- *NSNA Business Book*;
- *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised*;
- Guidelines Booklets for Program Areas;
- historical traditions.

### **Q. Why is it important to learn about and participate in shared governance?**

A. Shared governance, as practiced by members of the NSNA, is similar to governance models used by many professional associations, and is similar to governance structures at colleges, universities, and healthcare delivery organizations. Many hospitals are using shared governance models for decision making by staff nurses. Shared governance is one of the many criteria used when evaluating hospitals for Magnet Hospital status. By learning about shared governance as a student, new graduates can transfer the skills and knowledge to the practice setting, to professional organization involvement, and to community activities.

**Q. How do NSNA members learn about shared governance?**

A. One of the best methods for learning shared governance is through guided practice. NSNA provides many leadership opportunities and offers students and faculty resources to enhance learning about shared governance. Just as hospitals and community health agencies serve as sites for clinical experience, participating in NSNA shared governance serves as a practicum for gaining leadership experiences. Participation in NSNA shared governance fosters the development of leadership attributes and management skills needed in integrated health systems; skills learned in NSNA are transferable to other settings.

**Q. How can I find out more about NSNA's shared governance model?**

A. Visit [www.nсна.org](http://www.nсна.org) and [www.nснаleadershipu.org](http://www.nснаleadershipu.org) for more details or contact:

National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.  
45 Main Street, Suite 606  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 210-0705 FAX (718) 797-1186  
[nsna@nsna.org](mailto:nsna@nsna.org)