

## CONSENSUS

Consensus is a decision making process that stresses the cooperative development of a decision with group members working together rather than competing against each other. It means finding a solution which is as advantageous as possible to everyone involved under the circumstances.

### Levels of Consensus

1. I can give an unqualified "yes" to the decision.  
There is a sense of excitement or satisfaction about the decision.
2. I find the decision perfectly acceptable.
3. I can live with the decision.
4. I register my disagreement with the decision, but I don't choose to block the decision.
5. I disagree with the decision and I choose to block the decision.

The group then decides whether to:

- a. let the decision be carried over to a later time so there is more time for reflection, research, etc.
  - b. work to find a different solution that will be mutually agreeable;
  - c. use "fall back" decision making method.
6. I do not think that the group is ready to make this decision.  
More work needs to be done before consensus can be reached.