



BP 7215 Academic Senate Participation in Collegial Consultation

Reference:

Education Code § 70901; Title 5, § 53200, et seq.

1. Definition

“Academic Senate” shall refer to the organization formed at the District, as provided for in Title 5, §§ 53201-53202, whose primary function, as the representative of the faculty, is to make recommendations to the administration of the District and to the governing board with respect to academic and professional matters. The Academic Senate (herein “Senate”) includes full and part-time faculty members.

2. Level of Involvement

- A. Through the Senate, faculty and the District shall consult collegially in the formulation and development of District and College policies and procedures in those areas designated as “Academic and Professional Matters” in Title 5, § 53200, subd. (c). With regard to Academic and Professional Matters, the District shall either rely primarily on the Senate’s advice and judgement or, alternatively, the District and the Senate shall reach mutual consent, as set forth below.
- B. “Rely Primarily On”
 - i. Those Academic and Professional Matters on which the Board of Trustees will “rely primarily on” the advice and judgment of the Senate include:
 - a. The development of curriculum, including the establishment of prerequisites and placing of courses within disciplines;
 - b. The determination of degree and certificate requirements;
 - c. The establishment and review of grading policies;
 - d. The establishment of standards and policies regarding student preparation and success;
 - e. The appointment of faculty members to District and College committees;
 - f. The establishment of policies, procedures and programs for faculty professional development activities (excluding financial expenditures for faculty development);
 - g. The development of processes for program review.
 - ii. In the above areas, the recommendation of the Senate will normally be

accepted. Only in exceptional circumstances or for compelling reasons will the recommendations not be accepted.

- iii. When the Board of Trustees does not wish to accept the advice of the Senate on these matters, the Board (or designee) will send a written communication to request that the Senate reconsider the recommendation(s) taking into consideration the consensus and issues raised by the Board of Trustees.
- iv. If, upon reconsideration, the Senate does not change its initial recommendation and, if it is the opinion of the Board that the exceptional circumstance/compelling reason(s) still exist, the Board may reject the advice of the Senate. In cases such as this, existing policies and practices will remain in place. This being the case, the final determination with rationale will be communicated to the Senate in writing.

C. "By Mutual Consent"

- i. Those Academic and Professional Matters on which the Board of Trustees and the Senate obligate themselves to reach mutual agreement, resulting in written resolution, regulations or policy include:
 - a. The development of new educational programs;
 - b. District governance processes (except 1. e. above);
 - c. The delineation of faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, (including the development of the self-study and strategic plan updates (annual reports);
 - d. Financial policies of faculty professional development activities;
 - e. The determination of processes to be utilized in institutional planning and budgeting; and
 - f. Other "Academic and Professional Matters" as mutually agreed upon between the Board of Trustees and the Senate.
- ii. In the above areas, the recommendation of the Senate will normally be accepted. Only in exceptional circumstances or for compelling reasons will the recommendations not be accepted.
- iii. When the Board of Trustees does not wish to accept the advice of the Senate on these matters, the Board (or designee) will send a written communication to request that the Senate reconsider the recommendation(s) taking into consideration the consensus and issues raised by the Board of Trustees.
- iv. If, upon reconsideration, the Senate does not change its initial recommendation and, it is the opinion of the Board that the exceptional circumstance/compelling reason(s) still exist, the Board may reject the advice of the Senate. In cases such as this, existing policies and practices will remain in place. This being the case, the final determination with rationale will be communicated to the Senate in writing.

3. Scope of Regulations

In developing and carrying out policies and procedures pursuant to these regulations, the governing board shall ensure that its actions do not dominate or interfere with the formation or administration of any employee organization, or contribute financial or other support to it, or in any way encourage employees to join any organization in preference to another. Procedures for staff participation shall not intrude on matters within the scope of representation under Section 3543.2 of the Government Code. In addition, the Governing Board shall not interfere with the exercise of employee rights to form, join, and participate in the activities of employee organizations of their own choosing for the purpose of representation on all matters of employer-employee relations. Nothing in this section shall be construed to infringe upon or detract from any negotiations or negotiated agreements between exclusive representatives and district governing boards. It is the intent of the Board of Governors to respect lawful agreements between staff and exclusive representatives as to how they will consult, collaborate, share or delegate among themselves the responsibilities that are or maybe delegated to staff pursuant to these regulations.

Board Approved 11/10/21

Next review date fall 2027