

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
STATEMENT  
on  
LIMITATIONS ON ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT CO-CHAIR DESIGNATION  
FALL, 2019**

Having reviewed the COCFA contract, as well as the Academic Senate's election procedures, the Academic Senate, via the advisory input of its Policy Review Committee, adopts the position that the Academic Senate should not reference in any way the existence of Academic Department Co-Chairs. To do so would be a tacit approval of that title that is not authorized by any COCFA or Senate authority. The COCFA contract makes clear there should be one chair of record for department communication and signatures on District forms. Furthermore, since there is no mechanism for electing co-chairs in its election procedures, to have the Senate set precedent by acknowledging a co-chair in any of its documents would be inappropriate.

How departments allocate chair release time is not a matter for Senate action or involvement. This is a COCFA contract compensation matter. This delineation was made clear and agreed upon when the Senate previously addressed a proposed departmental split that was motivated in part by the need for greater compensation.

Academic departments may decide internally how to allocate their release time as authorized by the COCFA collective bargaining agreement. And none of this prevents academic departments from internally referring to and creating co-chairs within their departments. They may call these positions co-chairs, vice-chairs, etc.... The decision to do so is purely their own. But, the Academic Senate should not endorse in any way those titles unless changes are made to all COCFA and Senate documents to recognize such titles. Until that time, any department chair election that allows for the selection and appointment of co-chairs would be an election process falling outside the existing Senate procedure for such elections.

*Approved by Academic Senate on September 26, 2019*