



Academic Senate for College of the Canyons **STANDING POLICY** Legislative Endorsements

The Academic Senate is sometimes asked to formally endorse pending legislation from State, Federal or other governmental bodies. Endorsements of pending legislation can be, at times, fraught with unintended legislative and political consequences. This fact alone should not inhibit the Academic Senate from taking a formal position on such matters, but it should be acknowledged. It should also be noted, the Academic Senate could be asked to take formal action against pending legislation, issues or causes.

Matters directly related to the 10+1 subject matter jurisdiction of the Academic Senate are much easier to advance as discussion topics and eventual action items to be adopted for endorsement, if so determined by the Academic Senate President. However, matters remotely, or tangentially related to the Academic Senate's jurisdiction (regardless of how much universal support the item has) are more difficult scenarios to determine. Nothing in California Education Code, Title 5 regulations, the Academic Senate's Constitution or Bylaws suggests the Academic Senate cannot go beyond its 10+1 parameters to give voice to larger systemic or social matters found in legislation. To do so would purely be a matter and decision for how we as a deliberative body define our customary practices in this and other professional areas. Regardless of context, formal endorsement of legislation, issues or causes sets precedent.

Considering any endorsement without an objective basis for doing so could result in a proliferation of similar requests. And without establishing objective parameters of rationale, the Academic Senate would lack an ability to defend charges of inequitable subjective decision making.

Ultimately, it is within the Academic Senate President's discretion to determine the content and items listed on a meeting agenda. However, given the foregoing considerations, the following criteria should be utilized by the Academic Senate President in making a determination whether any legislation warrants placement on an agenda for consideration of endorsement:

1. Is the legislation, issue or cause directly related to the 10+1?
2. If not directly related to the 10+1, how might the matter relate in a manner warranting such consideration of endorsement?
3. How important is the endorsement to the success of the legislation, issue or cause?
4. Have other COC constituent groups taken formal positions on the matter?
5. Will an endorsement or formal position adversely or positively impact the professional influence of the Academic Senate?
6. Have relevant and related discipline faculty been consulted for advisory input and endorsement?
7. Has the California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) or United States Congressional Budget Office (CBO) developed analyses regarding legislative impact?

A 2/3 supermajority of the Academic Senate shall be required for endorsement of any piece of legislation.

Approved by Academic Senate on December 2, 2021