

This outline forms the basis of discussions between the Academic Senate and new members of the Board of Governors; use it to stimulate your own points of discussion with new faculty, administrators or trustees.

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

I. A Brief History of Academic Senates in California

- Presence of local academic senates at campuses across the state prior to 1963; centuries-old tradition of faculty senates at universities and colleges.
- Assembly Concurrent Resolution (1963) asked the State Board of Education to establish academic senates "...for the purposes of representing [faculty] in the formation of policy on academic and professional matters. . . ."
- Legislation (1967) created the Board of Governors and the Chancellor's Office for the California Community Colleges.
- AB 1725 (1988): Made a series of changes in the community colleges-- among which, once codified in Education Code, ensured faculty of responsibilities and rights comparable to those of other post-secondary institutions at both the local and state levels.

II. Responsibilities of Local Academic Senates

- A. "Ten Plus One" Elements of Authority Delegated to the Faculty and its Senate
- B. Rely Primarily? Or Mutually Agree?
- C. Curriculum as a Major Responsibility
 - Professional currency: (Tenure Review, Faculty Development/Flex)
 - IMPAC Projects
 - Articulation
 - Six-year Cycle of review
 - Program Review
 - Program Development/Discontinuance
 - Accreditation
 - Student Success through matriculation processes
 - Local Curriculum Committees
 - Recommendations to boards of trustees on other related matters (e.g., grant acceptance)
- C. Processes for Institutional and Strategic Planning
 - Budget development: assure the provision of institutional resources for purposes of students' education
 - Educational Master Plan and its focus on the college's mission
 - Facilities planning to meet the needs of current and emergent curricular needs
 - Accreditation
 - Foundations: Roles, priorities, scholarship awards

- Hiring: Setting priorities, procedures and processes, control of establishing equivalencies
- Technology and distance education to match student and community needs with sound educational methodology
- President's Cabinet/Council as an advisory body, not a policy-making body--especially on academic and professional matters assigned to faculty
- Research: Formative, substantive roles in determining the need for and nature of institutional research
- Participatory responsibilities of local senates:
 - Appoint faculty to committees, in some instances after discussion with college administration
 - Consult with faculty bargaining unit on matters of shared concern (e.g., district calendar, compressed semester scheduling)
 - Consult with students and staff prior and given "every reasonable consideration" to their concerns when making recommendations on academic and professional matters
- Regularly review and revise processes as needed

III. Responsibilities of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

A. To local senates

- Provide institutes: Curriculum (July) Occupational Education Leadership (March) Faculty Leadership (June)
- Offer structured Technical Assistance, often in conjunction with the Community College League of California (CCLC)
- Provide publications and website offering guidance and best practices
- Offer two plenary sessions annually
- Publish resolutions adopted by the body at the plenary sessions
- Conduct state-level work through standing committees,
- Foster networking among local senates with similar interests and concerns

B. To the Board of Governors and its designees and to the system's Consultation Council

- Address academic and professional matters directly: Recent examples--
 - Curriculum/degree and certificate requirements (information competency)
 - Grading policies (plus/minus grade options)
- Serve on task forces, advisory groups, provide faculty perspective and direction on "academic and professional matters" (e.g., Counseling Task Force, Real Cost of Education project)
- Initiate and participate in discussions to address and resolve state-wide issues (on-going discussions about budget proposals, agency review, equalization, minors in education)