

Participation in Local Decision-making

The Communications Council was formed to provide a venue for college/district constituency groups to participate in local decision-making.

The Communications Council meets one week prior to each regular governing board meeting. The Council reviews the Board agenda and discusses items on the agenda as well as other topics regarding participatory governance (see Administrative Regulation 2410).

The Communications Council consists of:

- the president of each college's Academic Senate or his/her designee;
- the president of each college's Classified Senate or his/her designee;
- the president of the faculty exclusive representative or his/her designee;
- the president of the classified employee's exclusive representative or his/her designee;
- a student representative from each college;
- the College/Campus Presidents; and
- the Chancellor.

Participatory Governance

The Board recognizes that the Academic Senates on each SCCC campus are representative of faculty and the Board will seek the advice and judgment of the Academic Senates on the following academic and professional matters: (Title 5 sections 53200-53204)

The Board will rely primarily upon the Academic Senates for the “Academic and professional matters” for the following policy development and implementation matters:

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines;
2. Degree and certificate requirements
3. Grading policies
4. Educational program development and discontinuance
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success

The Board and the Academic Senates will reach written mutual agreement on the following professional and academic matters:

6. District and College governance structures, as related to faculty roles
7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including the self-study and annual reports
8. Policies for professional development activities
9. Processes for program review
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development

+1 Other academic and professional matters as are mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate

When either the governing board (or designee), or the Academic Senates (designees) seek to consult collegially regarding "other academic and professional matters" (other than curriculum), the party seeking consultation shall request the consultation in writing. The parties shall then collegially consult and strive to develop mutually agreed upon written recommendations to the governing board. After reasonable collegial consultation, in the event the parties cannot reach mutual agreement on an academic and professional matter (other than curriculum), the parties shall submit separate written recommendations to the governing board.

The Board is the ultimate decision-maker in those areas assigned to it by state and federal laws and regulations.

Input from constituent groups shall be presented within the next regular academic semester at Communications Council meetings.

In cases where there is no existing policy, or in cases where exposure to legal liability or substantial fiscal hardship requires existing policy to be changed the governing board may act, after a good faith effort to reach agreement, only for compelling legal, fiscal, or organizational reasons. In the event that mutual written agreement cannot be reached, or the board acts, the Board shall communicate the reasons in writing to the President of each Academic Senate within 30 days or the

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next regular Communications Council meeting.

References: Education Code Section 70902(b) (7); Title 5 Sections 53200 et seq.; 51023.5; 51023.7; Accreditation Standard - IV.A.2, IV.A.5

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